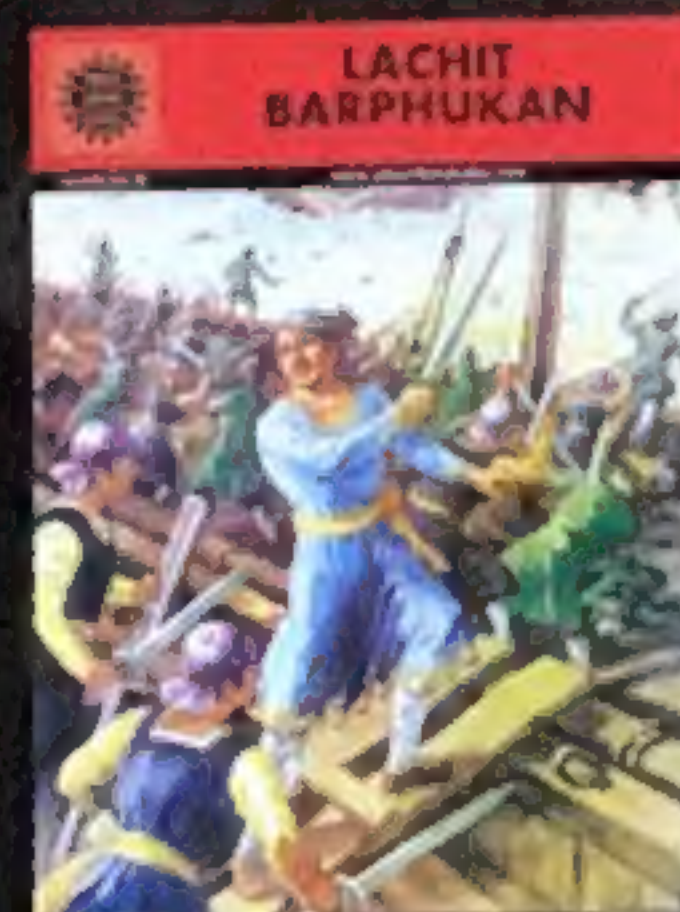


BraveHearts

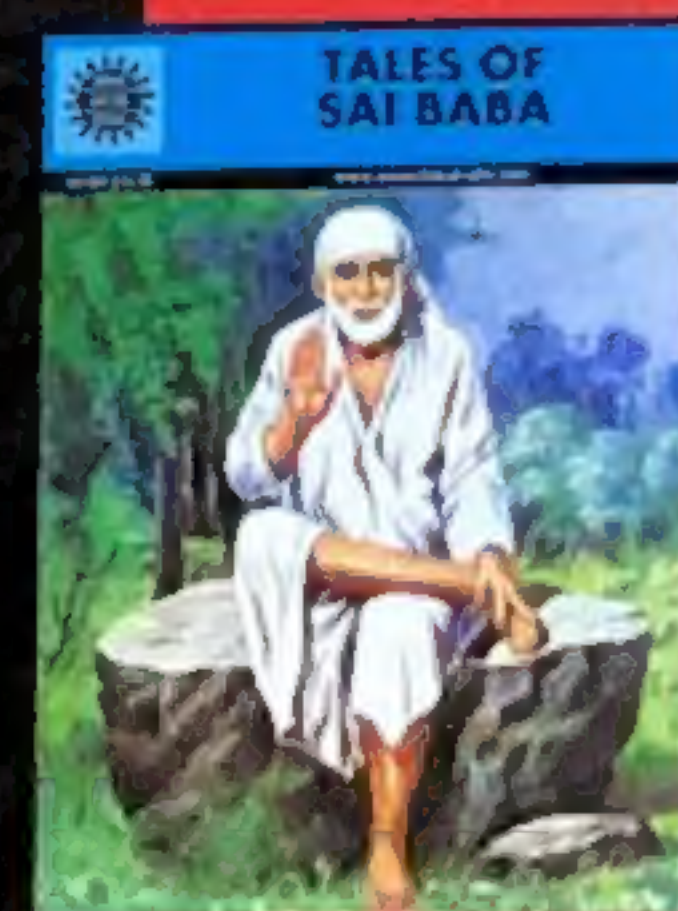
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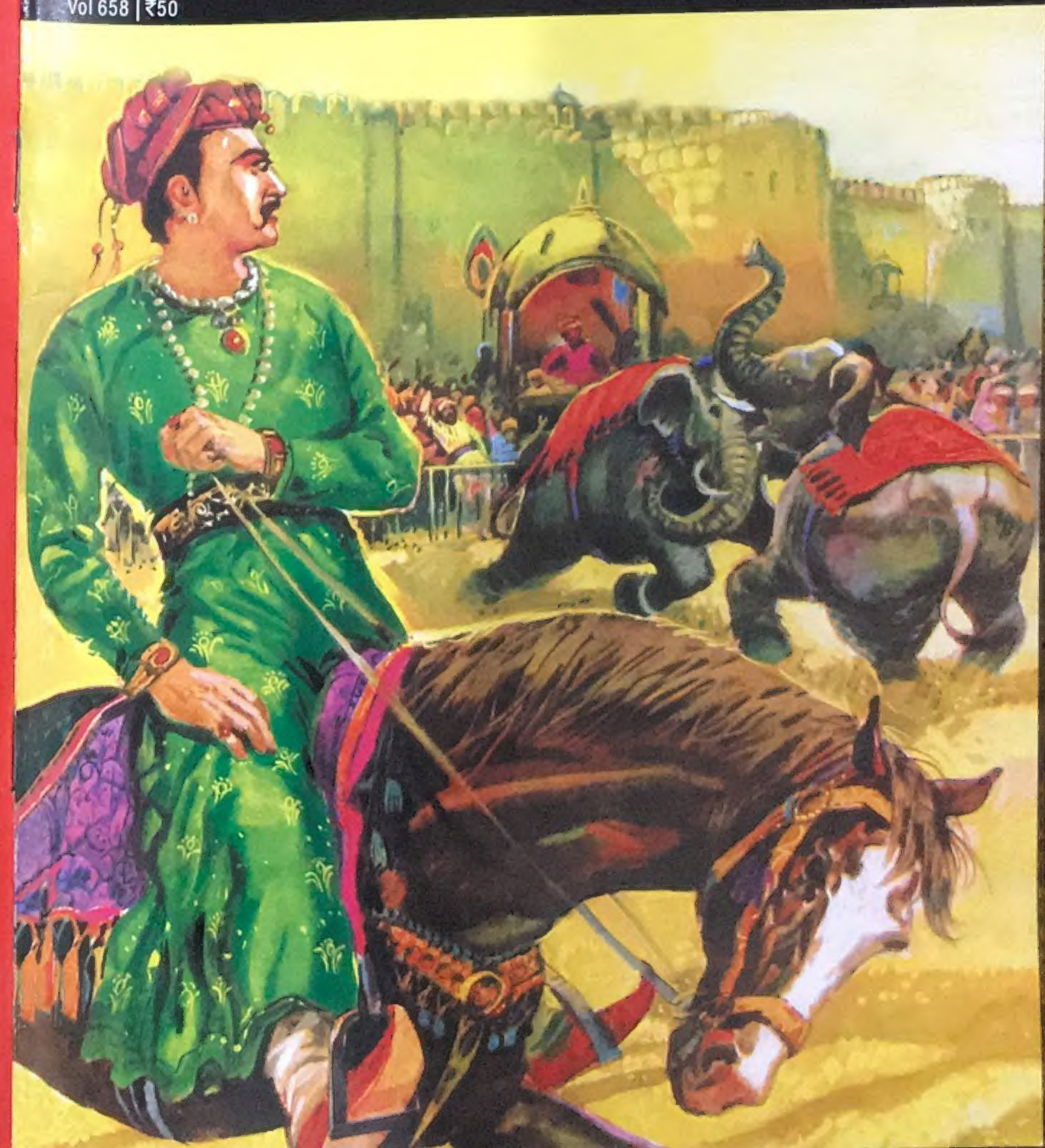
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# JAHANGIR

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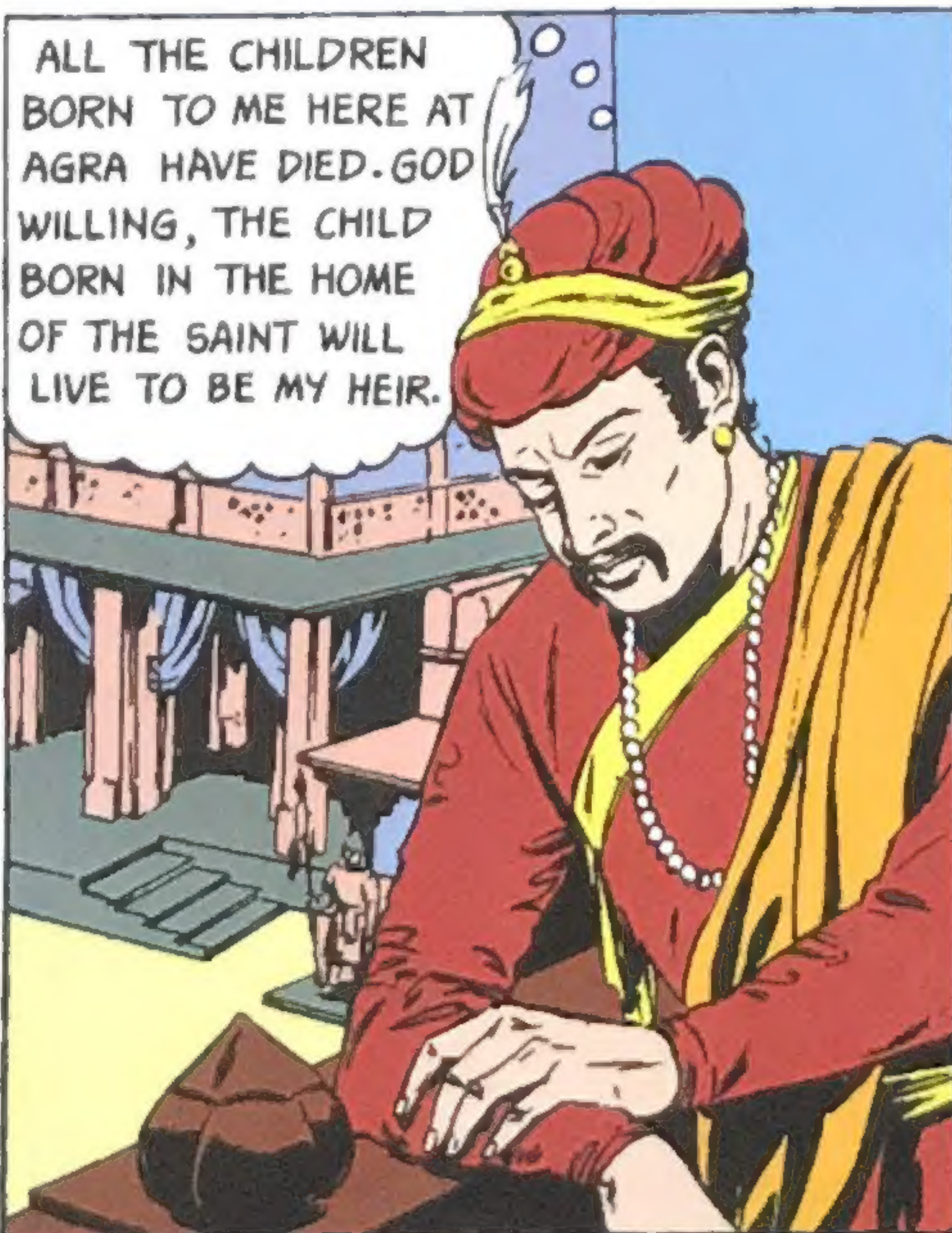
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# JAHANGIR



IT WAS THE YEAR 1569. AKBAR, THE MUGHAL EMPEROR, HAD JUST SEEN OFF HIS RAJPUT WIFE, JODHABAI. SHE WAS ON HER WAY TO SIKRI, THE VILLAGE WHERE SAINT SHEIKH SALIM CHISHTI LIVED.



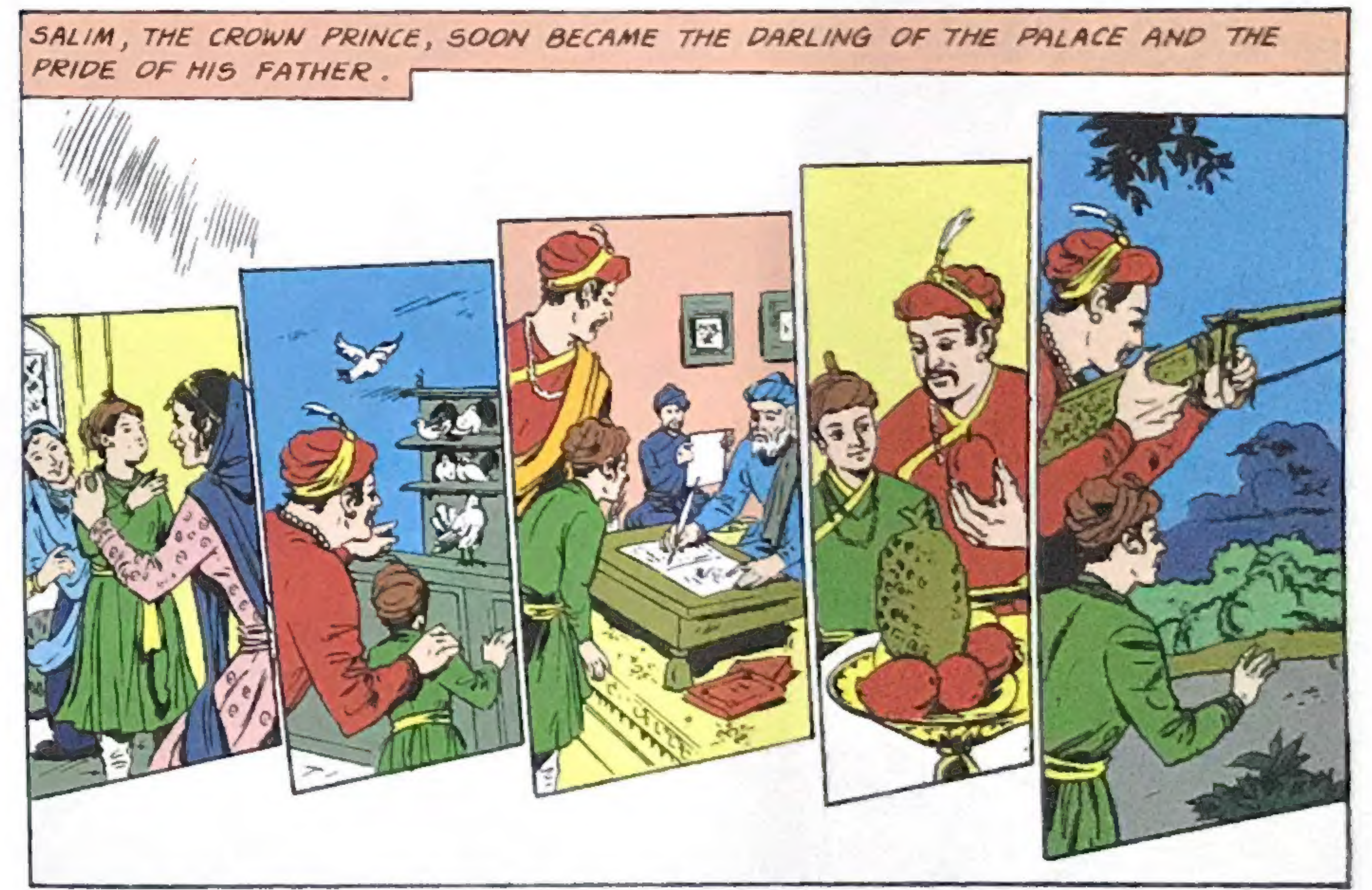
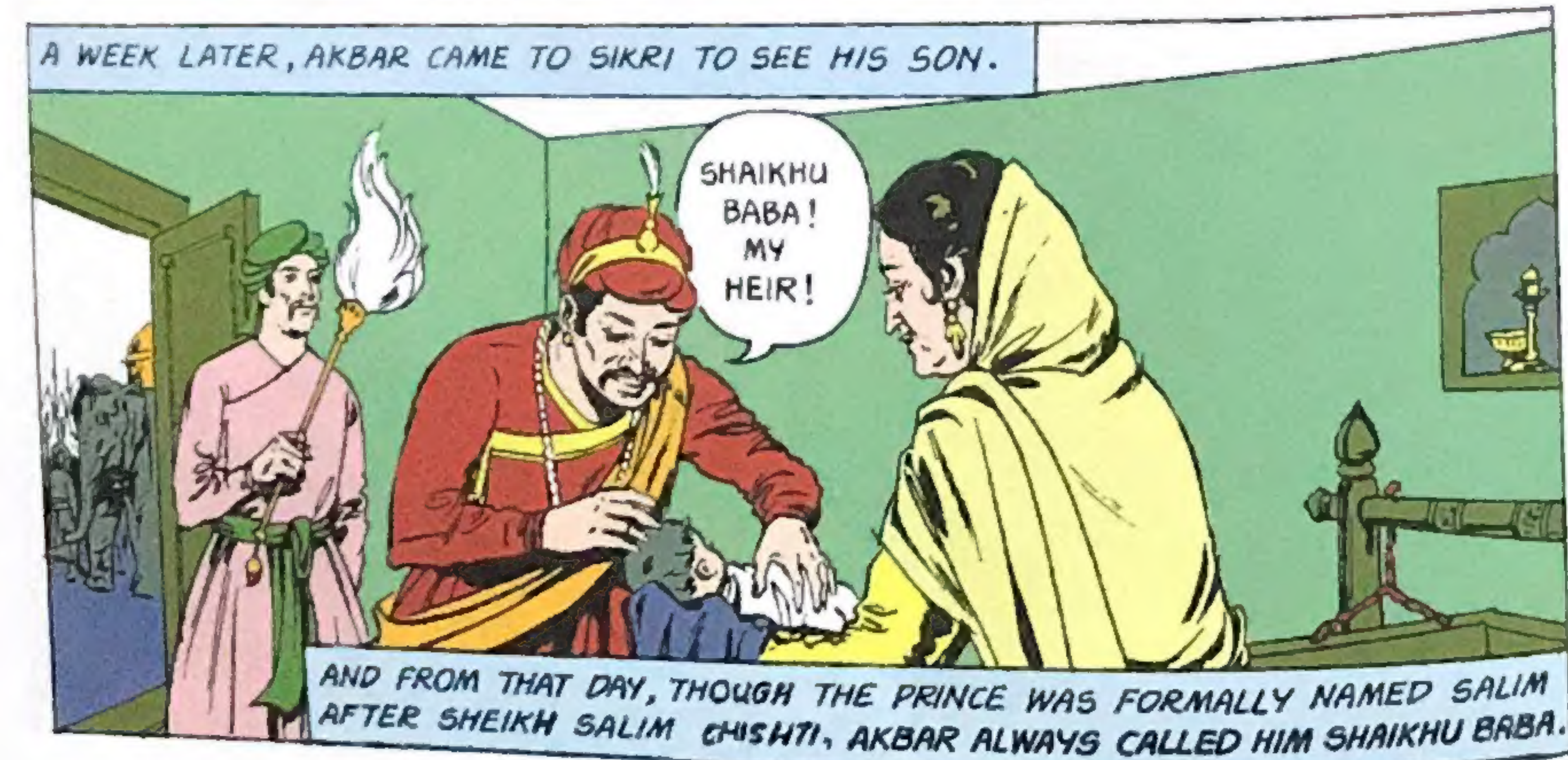
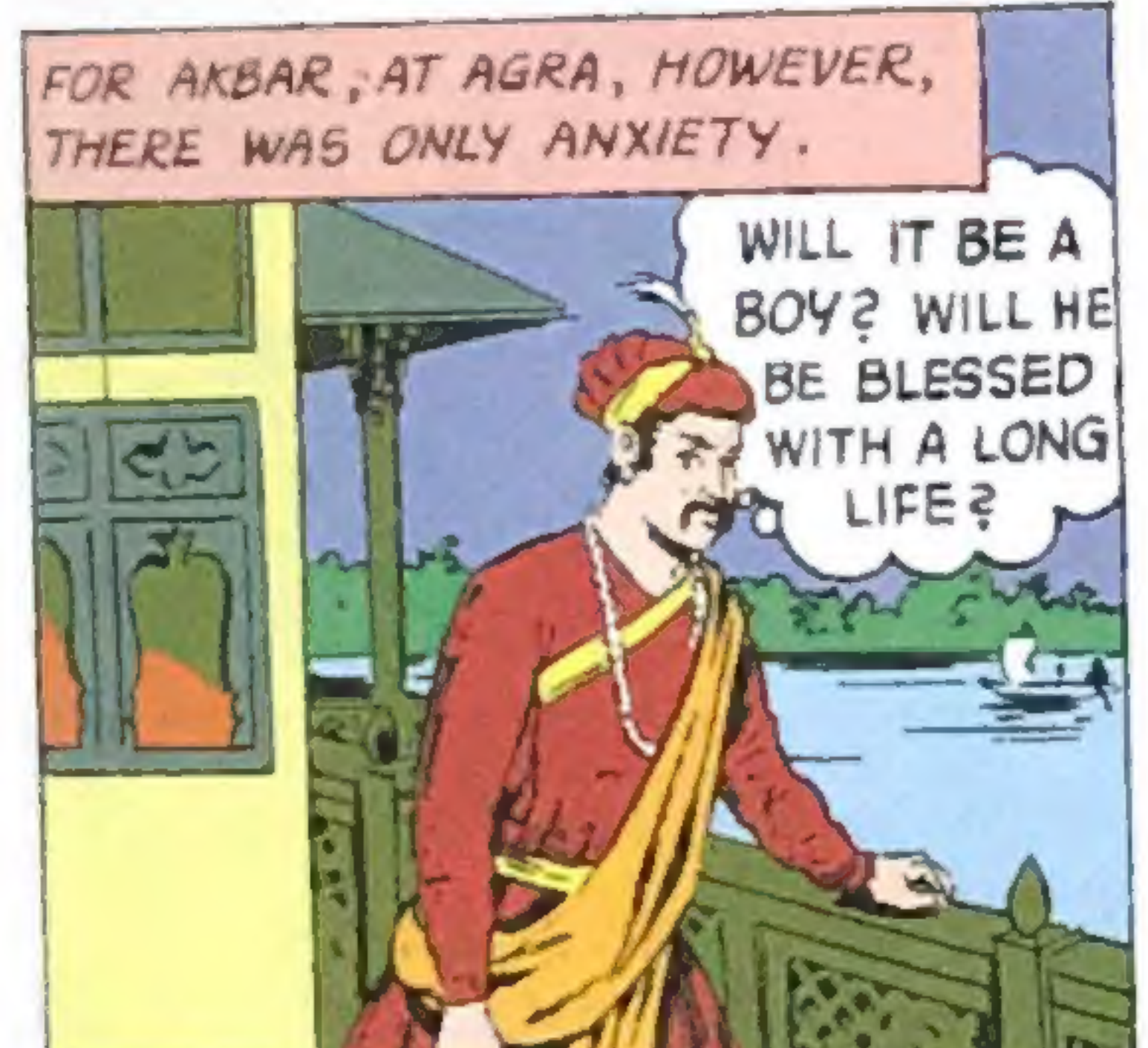
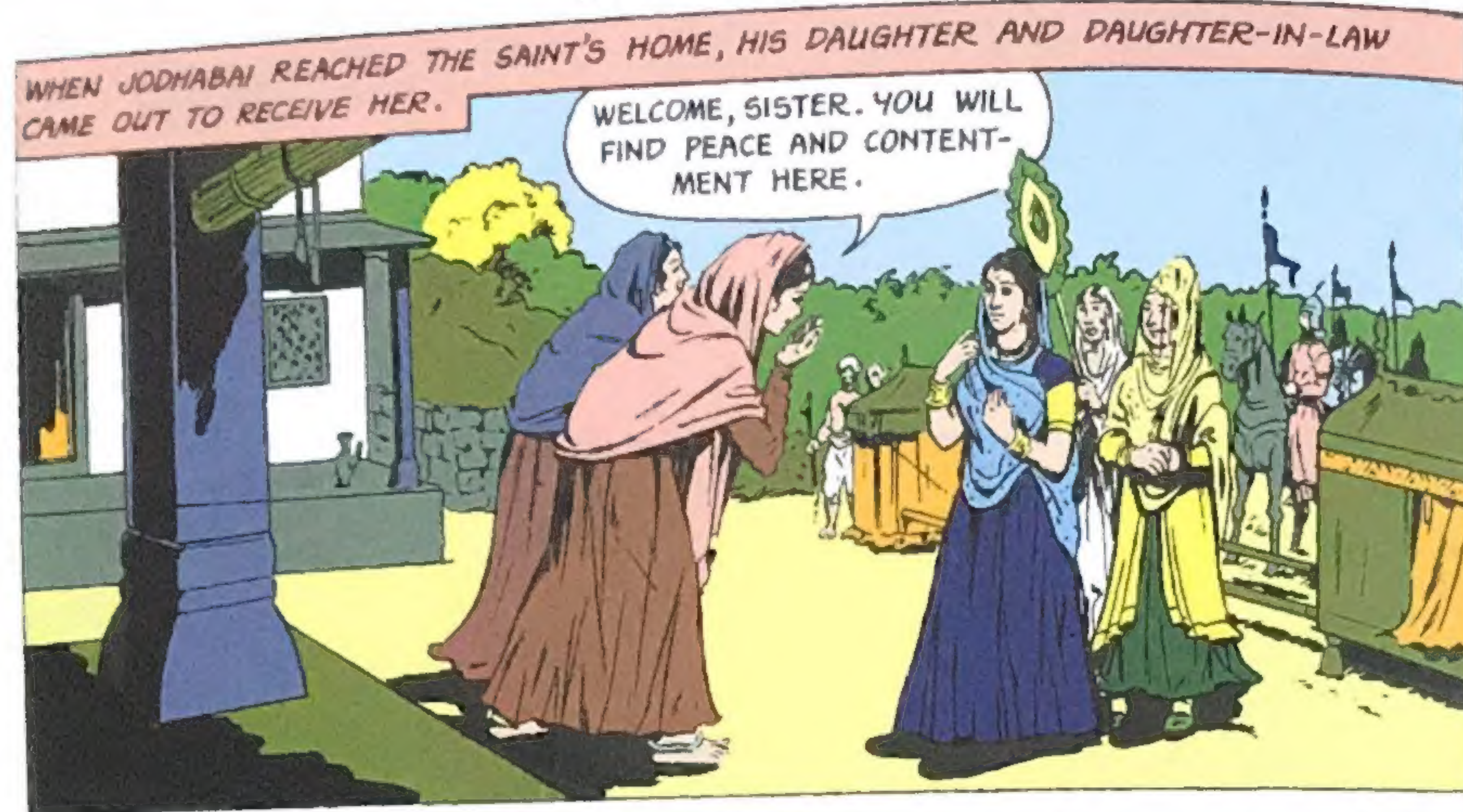
ALL THE CHILDREN BORN TO ME HERE AT AGRA HAVE DIED. GOD WILLING, THE CHILD BORN IN THE HOME OF THE SAINT WILL LIVE TO BE MY HEIR.



ON HER WAY TO SIKRI, JODHABAI WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.

PERHAPS IT'S THE WILL OF GOD THAT THE FUTURE EMPEROR SHOULD BE BORN IN THE HUMBLE HOME OF AN ASCETIC.

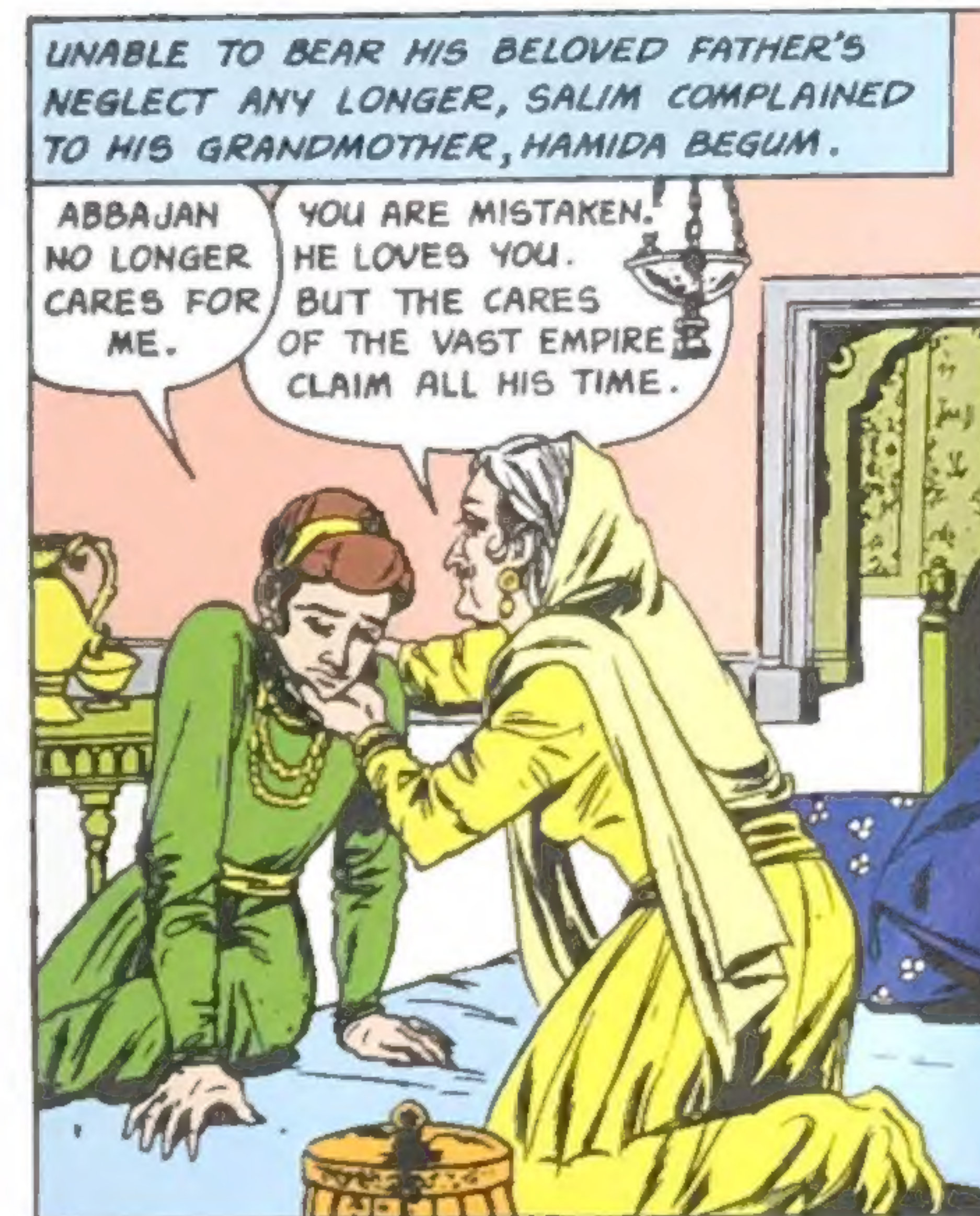








\* FATHER





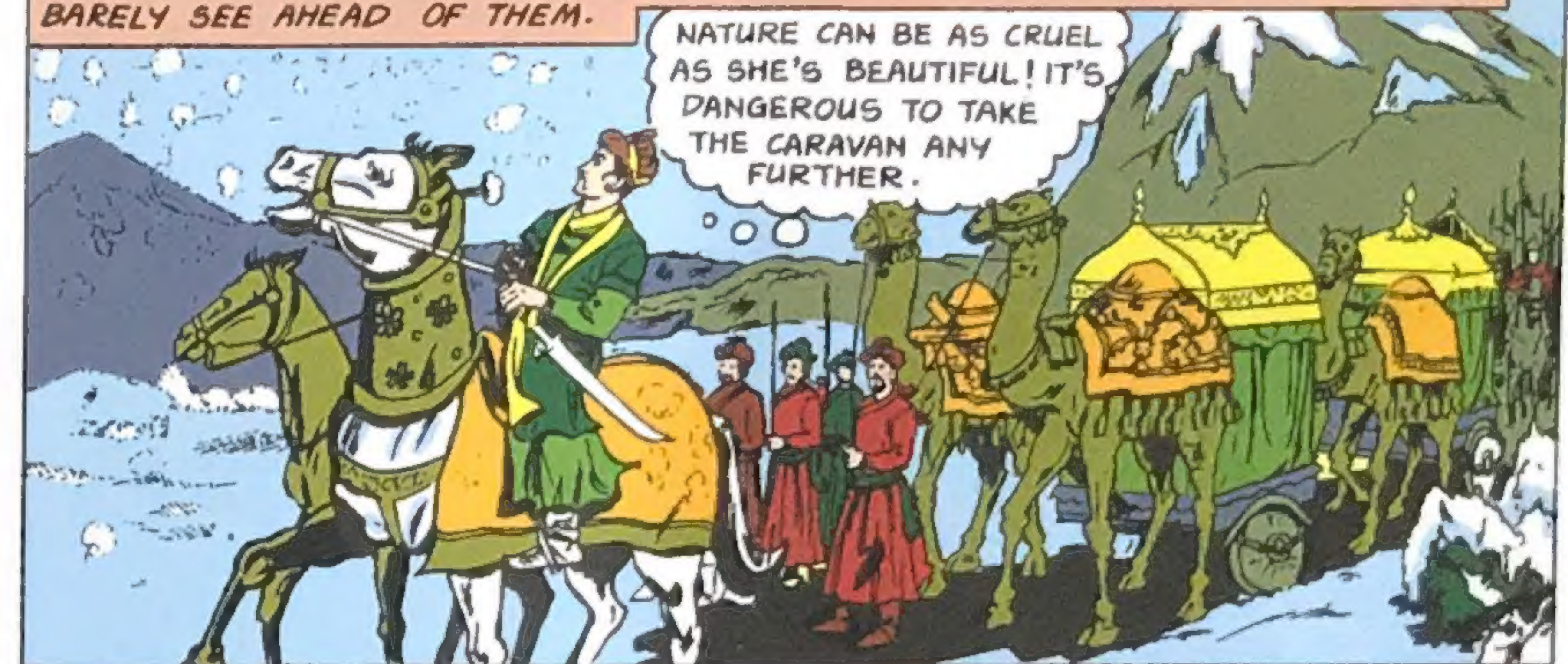
SALIM ENJOYED A SPELL OF PEACE AND JOY TILL, ONE DAY —



SALIM, HOWEVER, DID NOT HAVE TIME TO BROOD OVER THIS MATTER AS HE HAD TO ACCOMPANY HIS FATHER TO KASHMIR ON A MILITARY CAMPAIGN.



SALIM AND HIS COMPANION SOON REACHED BHIMBAR. BUT, WHILE THEY WERE RETURNING WITH THE WOMEN, THERE WAS A SUDDEN SNOWFALL. THEY COULD BARELY SEE AHEAD OF THEM.



TOWARDS EVENING, AKBAR, WHO WAS EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE CARAVAN, SAW SALIM RIDING UP ALONE.





WHEN SALIM EXPLAINED WHY HE HADN'T, AKBAR FLEW INTO A RAGE AND IGNORING HIM TURNED TO ABUL FAZL.

IT WAS NOT FOR SHAIKHU BABA TO DECIDE! IT WAS FOR HIM TO OBEY! HAD I SENT MURAD ON THIS MISSION, HE WOULDN'T HAVE FAILED ME!

FATHER!



HURT AND PERPLEXED BY AKBAR'S UNREASONABLE ANGER, SALIM SHUT HIMSELF UP IN HIS TENT AND NEITHER ATE NOR SLEPT.

COULD HE SEE ONLY DISOBEDIENCE AND NOT INTELLIGENCE IN WHAT I DID?



IS THIS THE FAITH HE HAS IN ME, THE HEIR TO HIS THRONE?



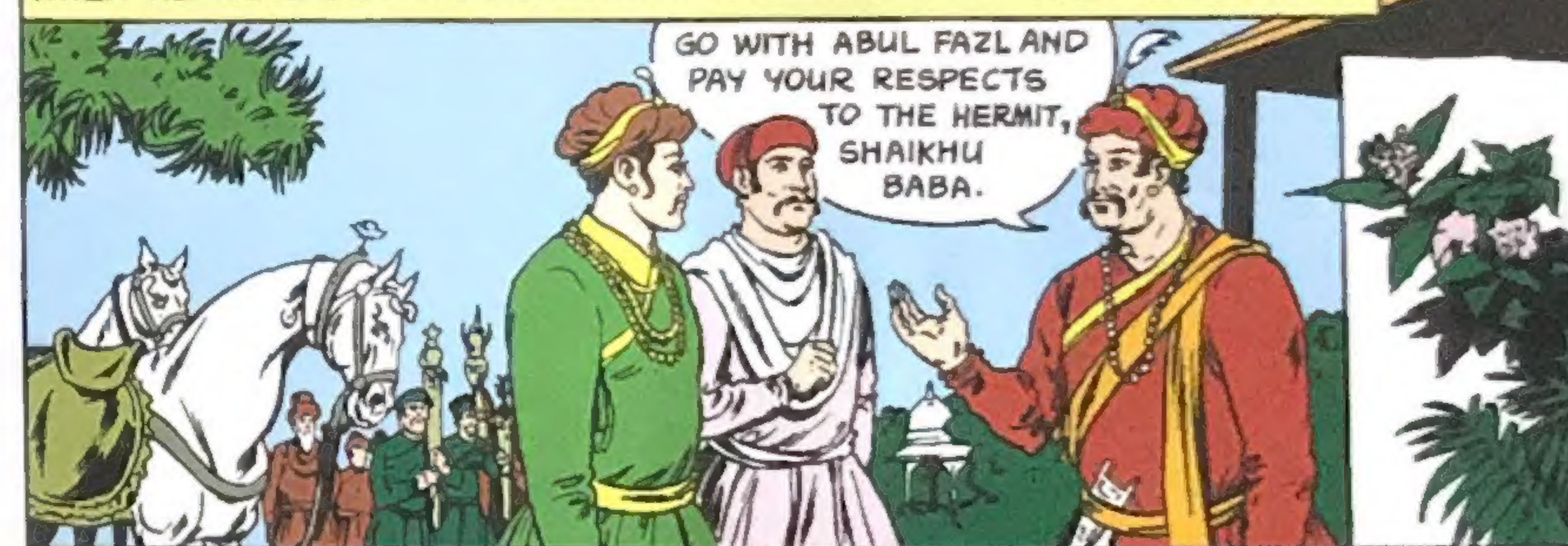
AND SO BEGAN THE ESTRANGEMENT OF THE SON FROM THE FATHER.

ON THE WAY TO KASHMIR, AT KANBAL, AKBAR VISITED THE HERMIT, WAHID SUFI.



WHEN HE CAME OUT HE SAW SALIM AND ABUL FAZL WAITING FOR HIM.

GO WITH ABUL FAZL AND PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE HERMIT, SHAIKHU BABA.



AS SALIM STOOD WITH ABUL FAZL, IN FRONT OF THE SUFI MYSTIC —

YOU HAVE ALREADY BLESSED MY FATHER, THE WORLD'S LORD. AND NOW I IMPORE YOU TO BLESS HIS SON, THE HEIR TO THE THRONE, WHO STANDS BEFORE YOU.

THE SON AND HEIR SHOULD OBTAIN HIS BLESSINGS FROM HIS FATHER.



THE REPLY WAS A SNUB, BUT SALIM FORGOT ABOUT IT BECAUSE IT WAS THEN THAT HIS SECOND SON, PARVEZ, WAS BORN.



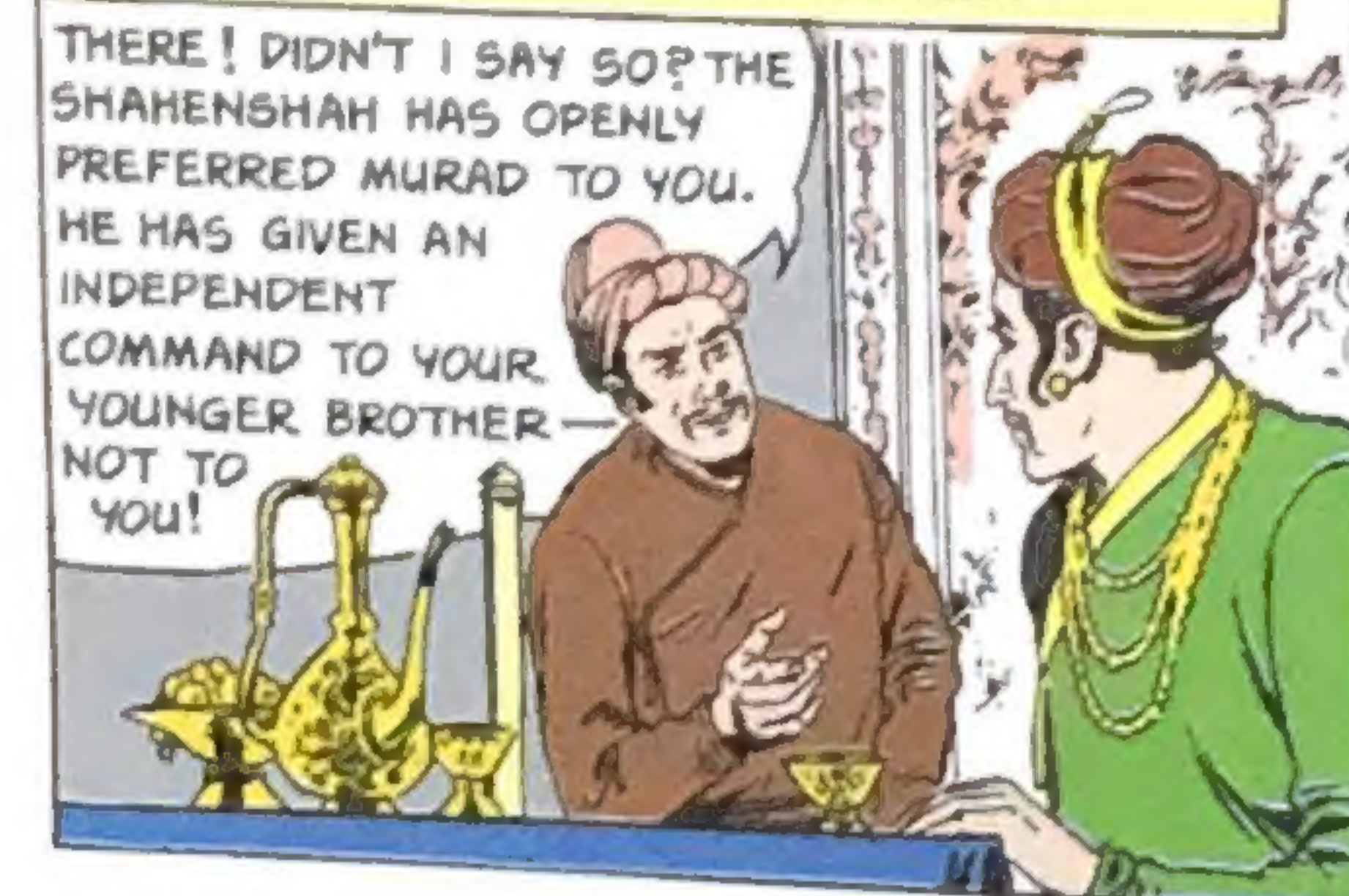
BUT ABUL FAZL DID NOT FORGET. HE REPORTED TO AKBAR THE WORDS SPOKEN BY SALIM. THE EMPEROR WAS LOST IN THOUGHT FOR A WHILE. THEN—



TWO YEARS LATER, AKBAR GAVE MURAD AN INDEPENDENT COMMAND.



LATER, THE FRIEND WHO HAD INTRODUCED HIM TO WINE, CAME TO SEE SALIM.



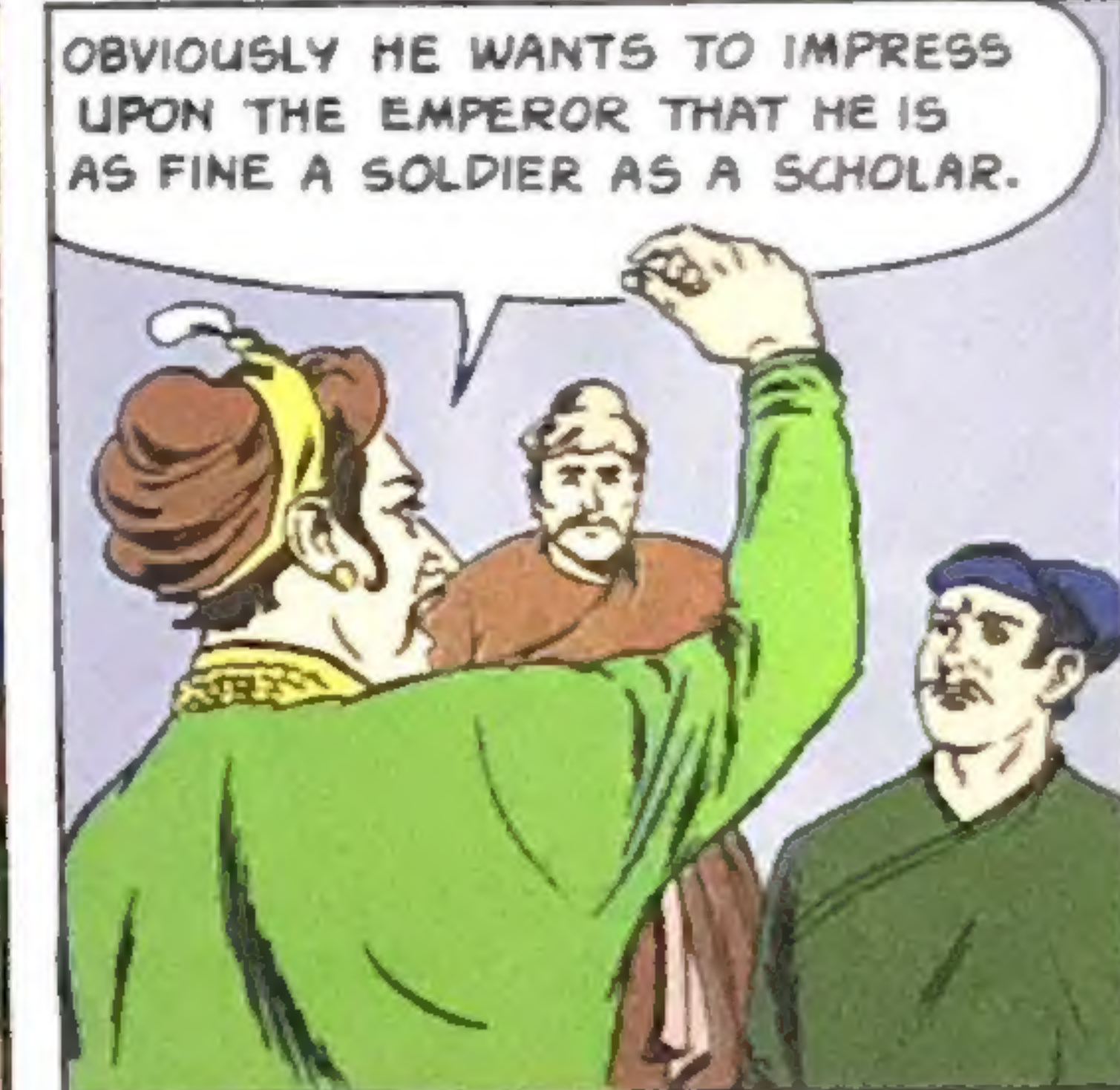
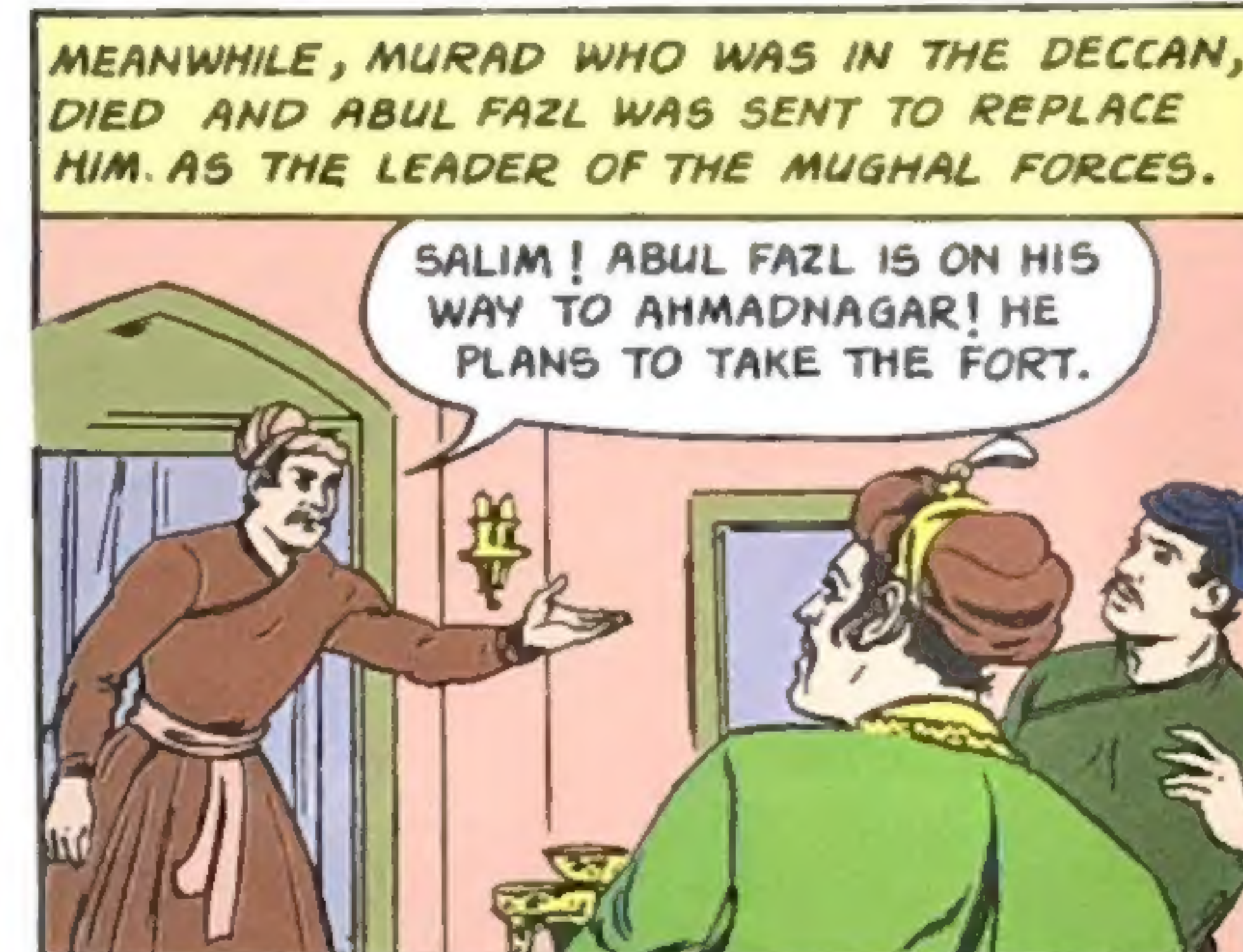
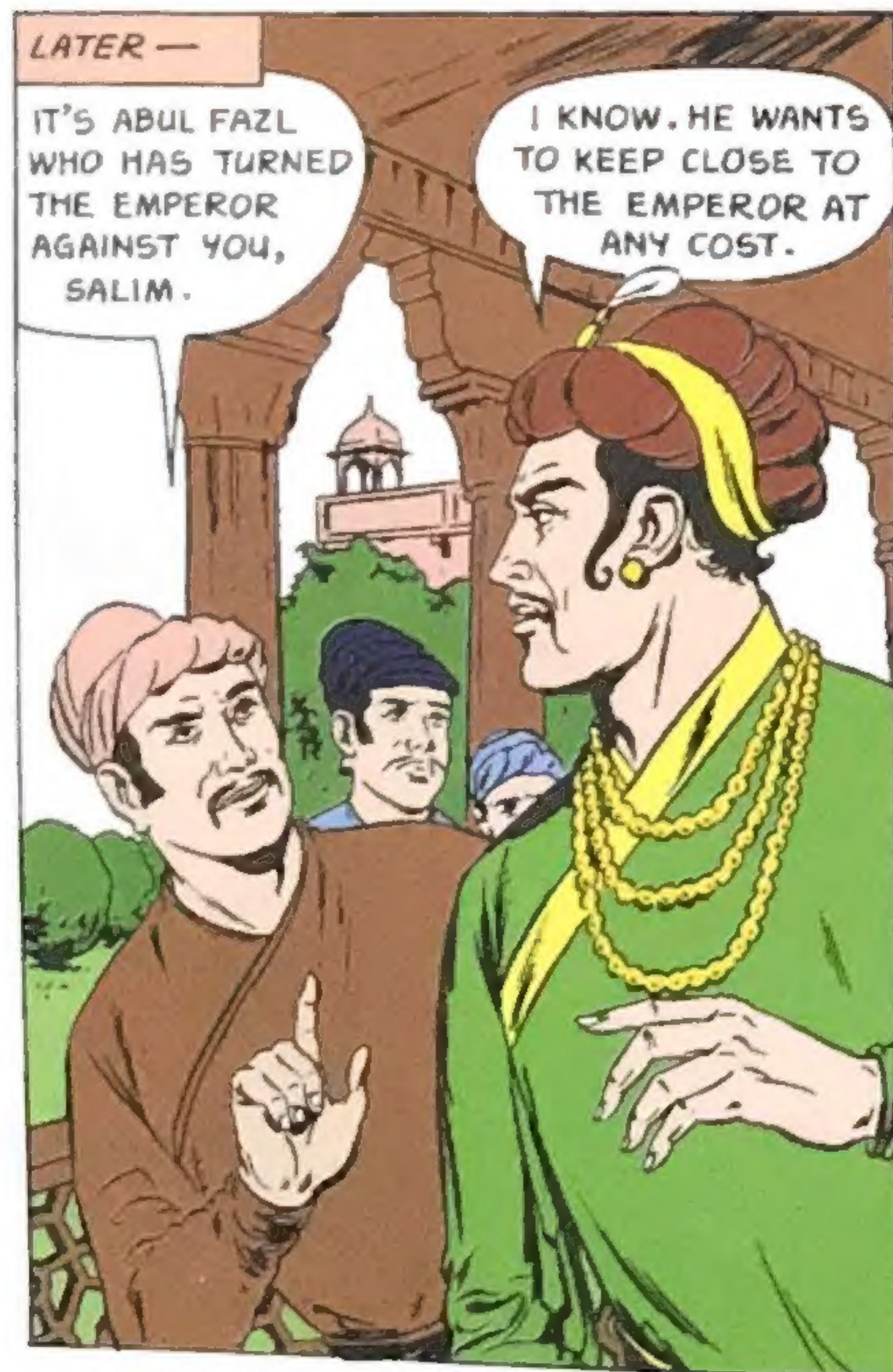
AND YET, WHEN AKBAR WAS SEIZED WITH AN ATTACK OF ACUTE COLIC, SALIM RUSHED TO HIS PALACE.



AFTER TAKING THE HAKIM'S MEDICINE, HOWEVER, AKBAR FELT WORSE AND BECAME DELIRIOUS.









AKBAR'S DEPARTURE, HOWEVER, UNLEASHED THE YOUTHFUL SPIRIT OF SALIM WHO HAD BEEN DENIED AN INDEPENDENT COMMAND FOR TOO LONG.

I'LL SEND MY FORCES TO MEWAR AND GO TO AJMER!



AT AJMER, FAR AWAY FROM THE RESTRAINING PRESENCE OF HIS FATHER, SALIM SPENT HIS NEW-FOUND FREEDOM IN SPORT AND RIOTOUS LIVING.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DANCING GIRL!



IT WAS THEN THAT ONE OF HIS COMPANIONS CAME UP WITH AN IDEA.

SULTAN SALIM! THE EMPEROR IS NOW IN THE DECCAN. THE NORTH IS UNGUARDED. WHY DON'T WE SEIZE THE TREASURES OF AGRA AND INVADE THE PROVINCE OF PUNJAB?



SALIM, WHO HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF AN OPEN REVOLT, HESITATED.

BUT MY FORCES ARE AT MEWAR!

THEN RECALL THEM!



SALIM RECALLED HIS FORCES AND MARCHED TOWARDS AGRA. WHEN HE REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, HOWEVER —

HAMIDA BEGUM WILL SOON BE CALLING ON YOU. SHE HAS SET OUT FROM HER PALACE.

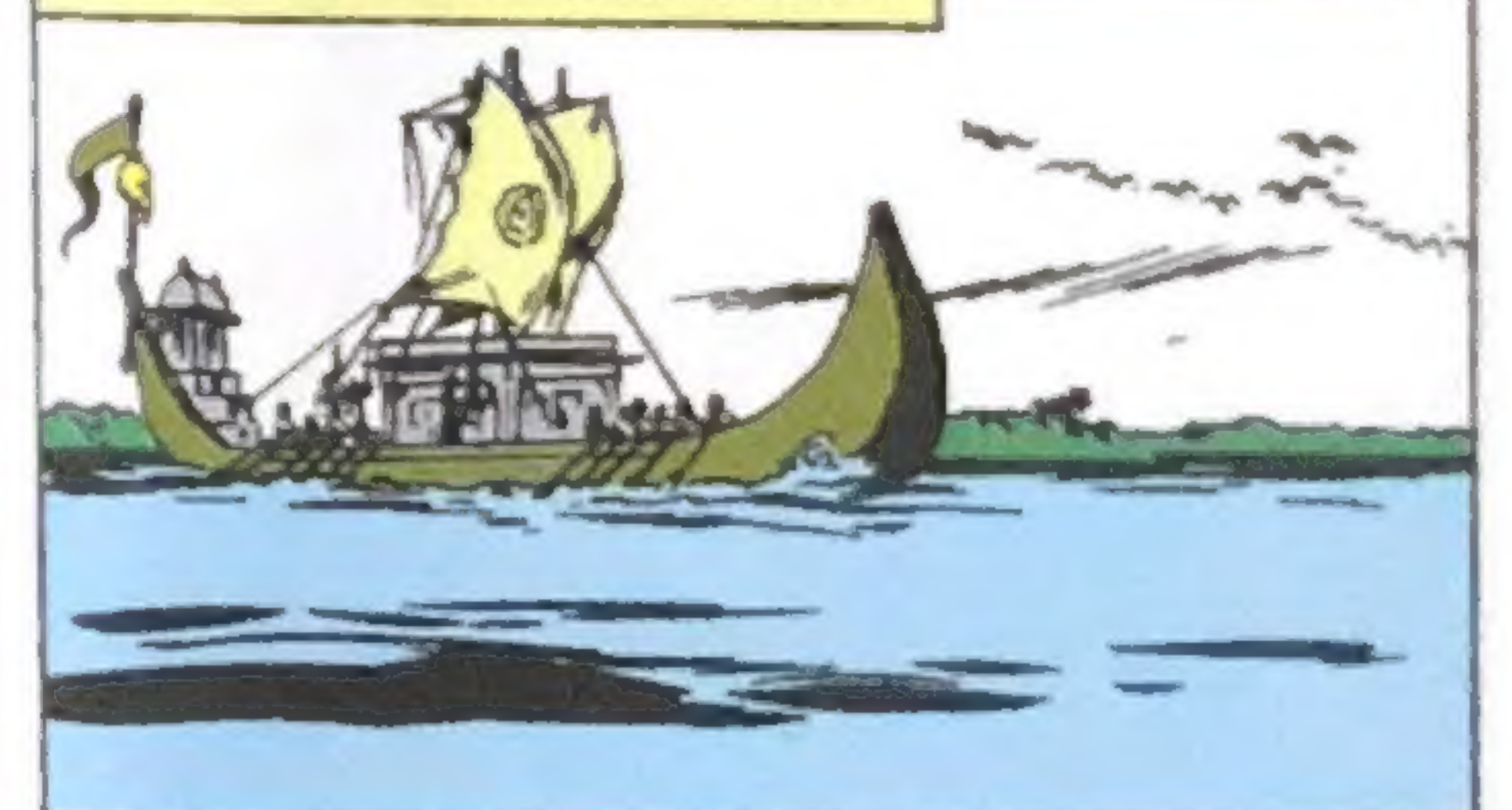
NO! MY BELOVED GRANDMOTHER ON HER WAY TO SEE ME!



HOW CAN I FACE HER? I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE!

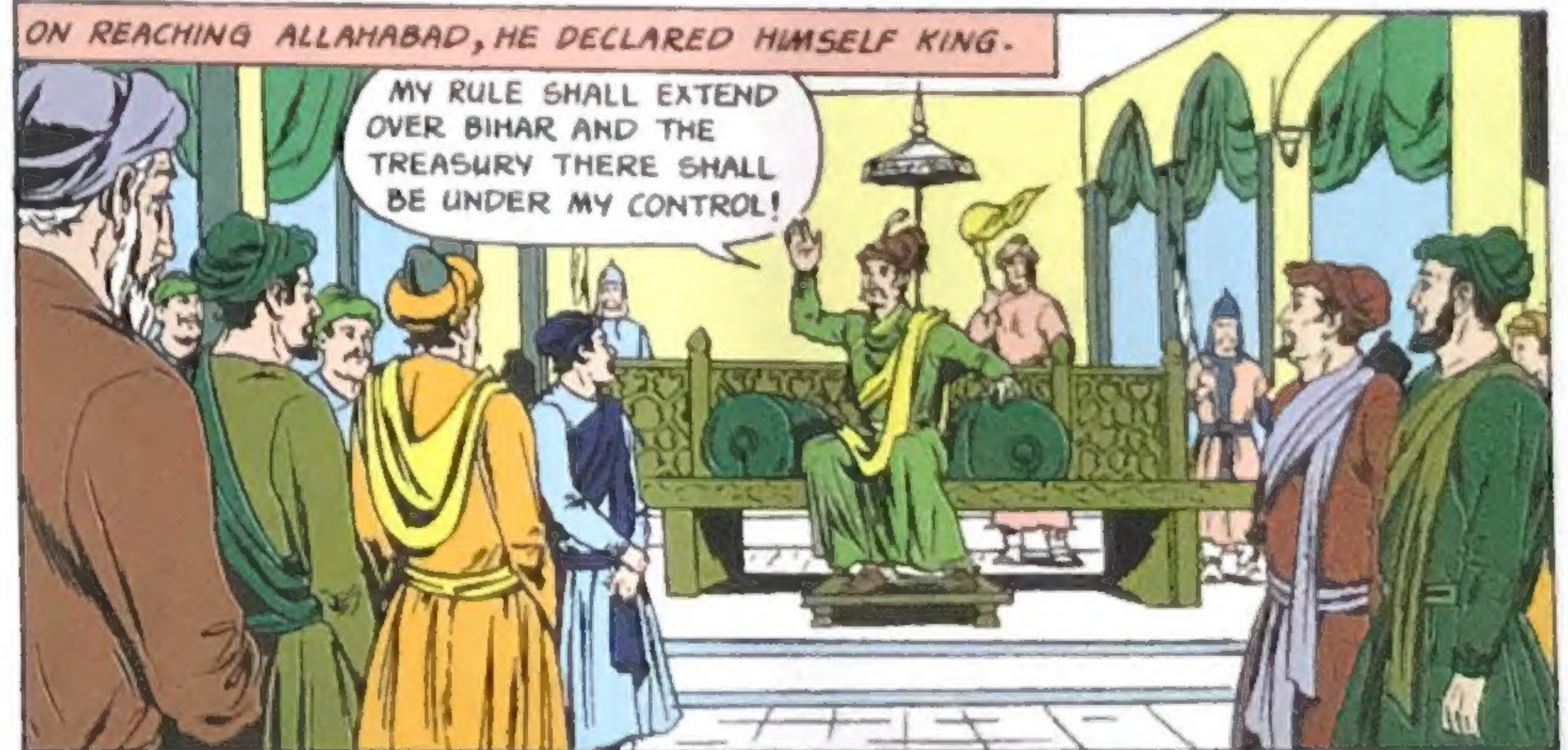


ORDERING HIS TROOPS TO FOLLOW BY LAND, SALIM LEFT FOR ALLAHABAD.

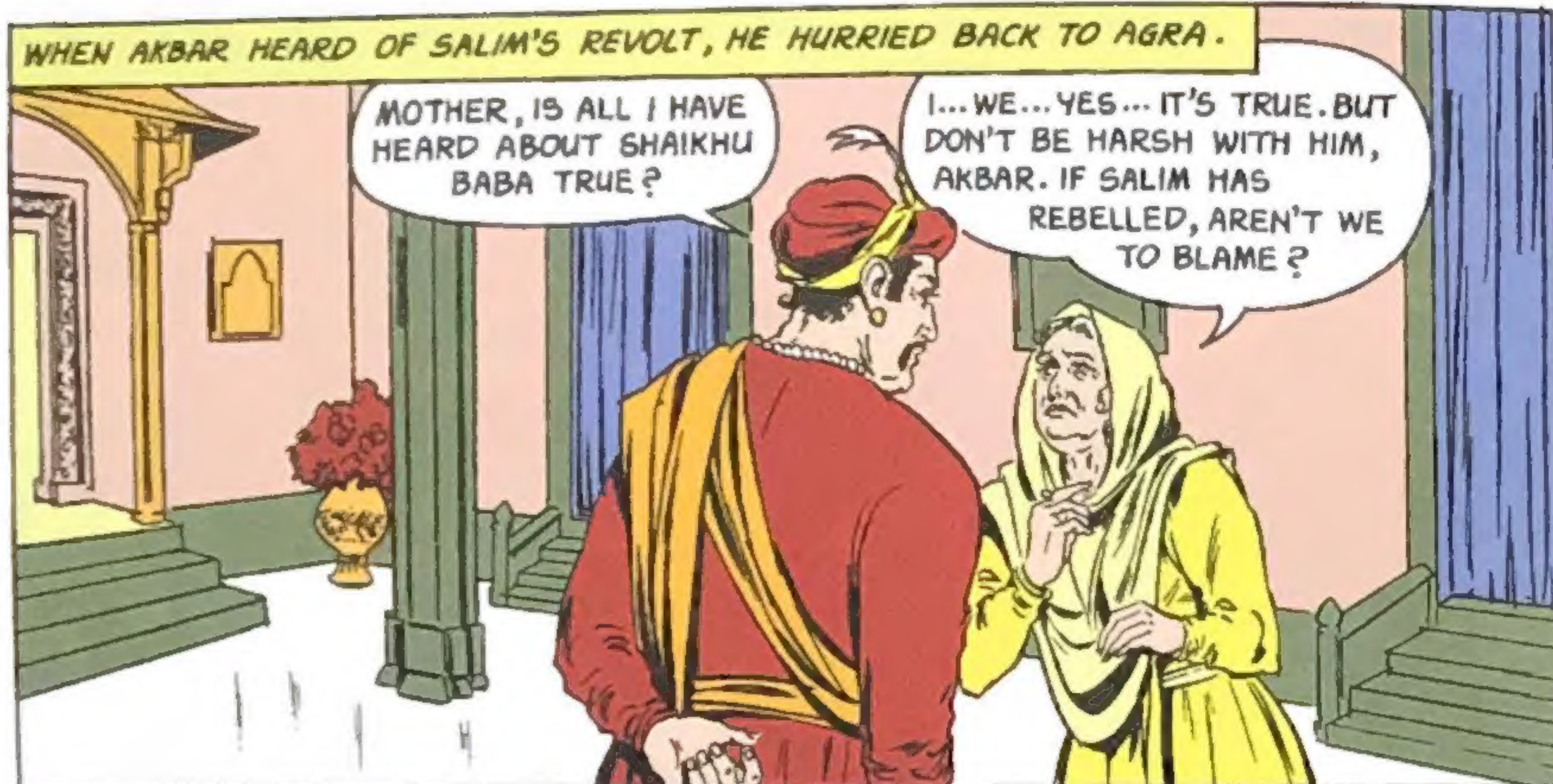


ON REACHING ALLAHABAD, HE DECLARED HIMSELF KING.

MY RULE SHALL EXTEND OVER BIHAR AND THE TREASURY THERE SHALL BE UNDER MY CONTROL!

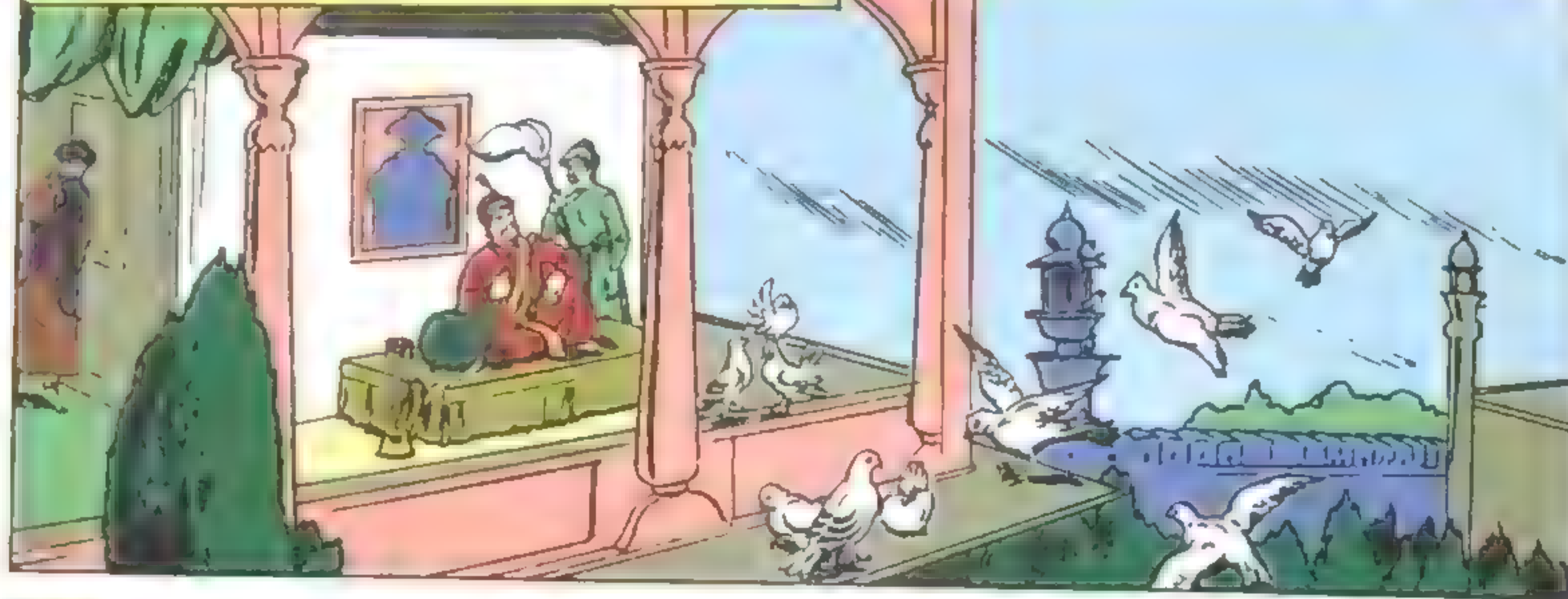








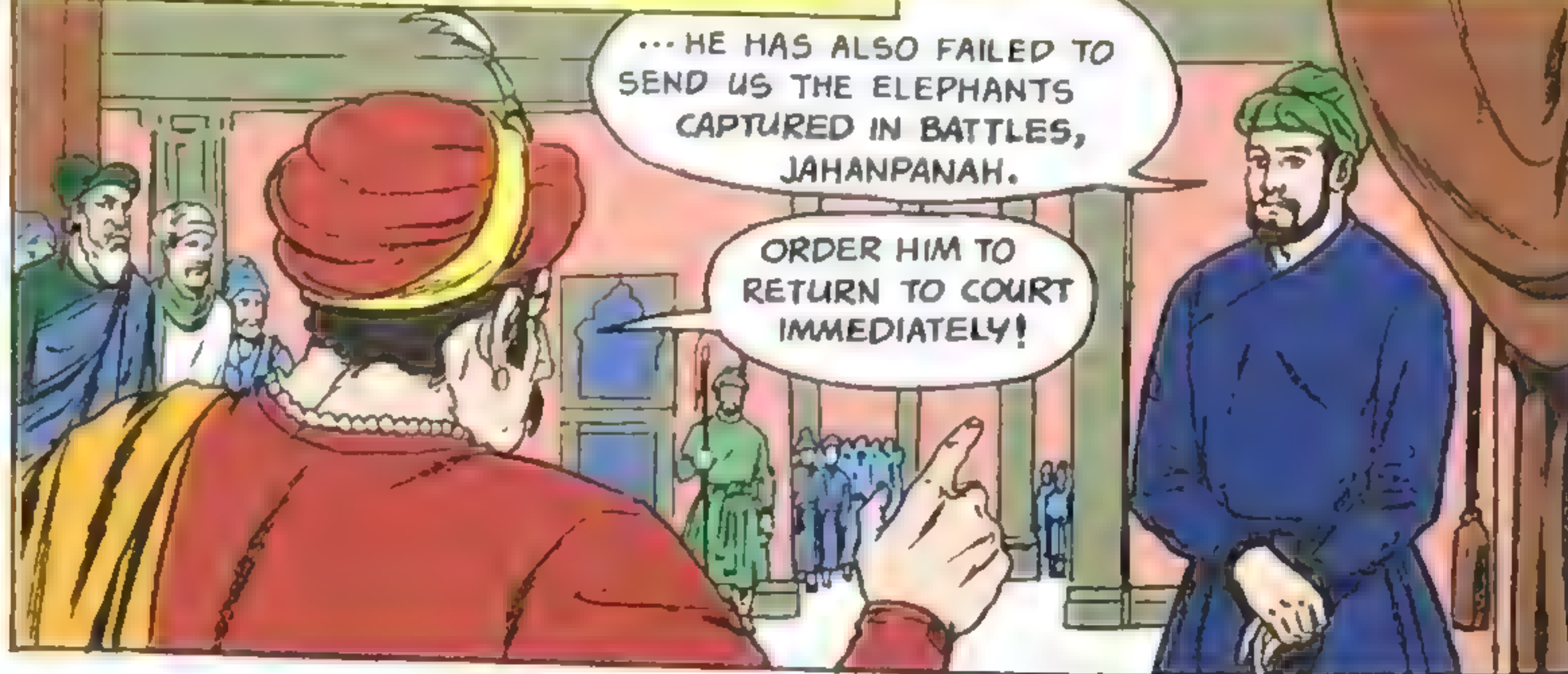
A FEW MONTHS LATER, AS AKBAR RELAXED IN HIS DOVECOTE, LITTLE DID HE FORESEE THE TRAGEDY THAT WAS IN STORE FOR HIM.



AKBAR IMMEDIATELY GUESSED WHO WAS BEHIND THE MURDER.



AS IF TO ADD TO HIS PROBLEMS, SOON AFTER ABUL FAZL'S DEATH, AKBAR LEARNT THAT DANIYAL HAD BEGUN DRINKING HEAVILY.



TO AKBAR'S ASTONISHMENT, DANIYAL SENT A REPLY WHICH IN EFFECT SAID THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF OBEYING THE ORDER.



HAMIDA BEGUM, TOO, HAD HEARD ABOUT DANIYAL'S ATTITUDE. WHEN AKBAR CAME TO SEE HER —



AND YET... AND YET... HE HAD MY BELOVED FRIEND MURDERED!

CAN'T YOU FORGIVE HIM? AT LEAST, FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE?







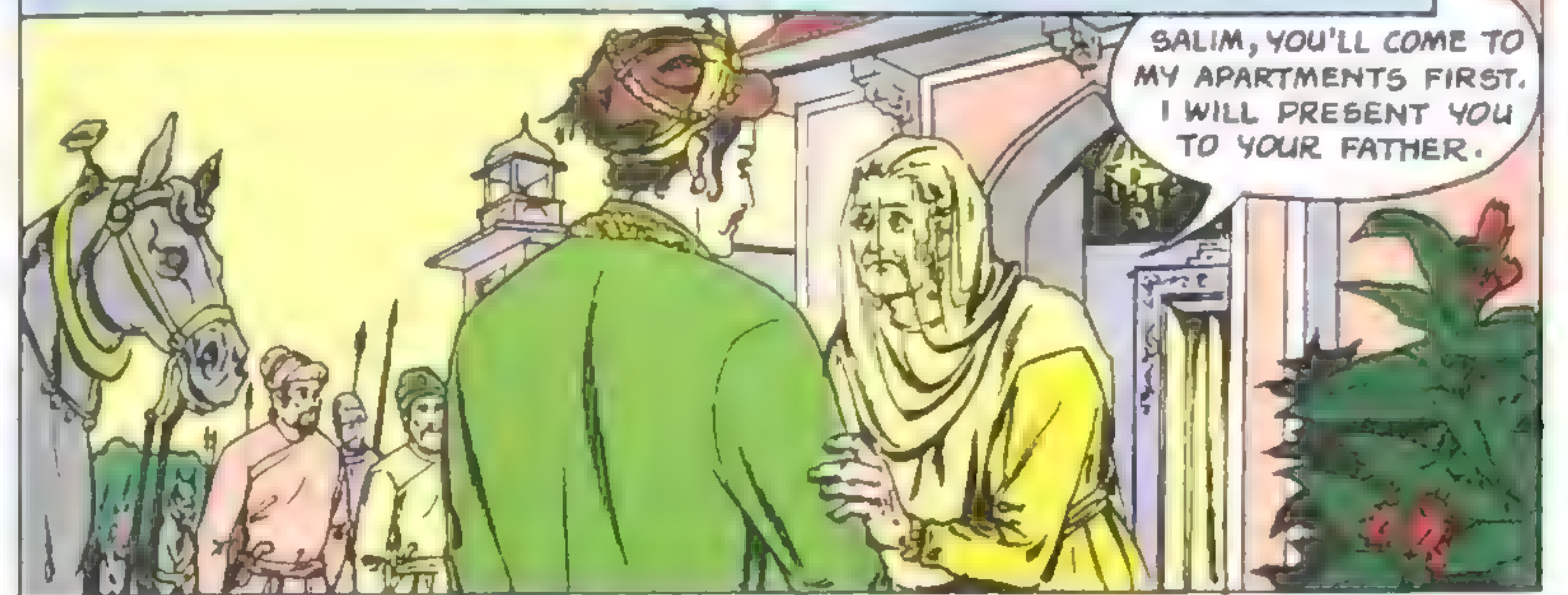
WHEN SALIM HEARD THAT HIS BELOVED STEPMOTHER WAS ON HER WAY TO SEE HIM AND TAKE HIM TO COURT —



BUT THIS TIME, SALIM'S OWN GOOD SENSE CAME TO HIS RESCUE. HE IGNORED THE COUNSEL OF HIS FRIENDS AND WENT OUT TO MEET SALIMA BEGUM.



WHEN SALIM ARRIVED AT AGRA, HAMIDA BEGUM CAME OUT TO RECEIVE HIM.



LATER WHEN AKBAR CAME TO THE ZENANA —

SALIM HAS ASKED THE ASTROLOGERS TO FIX AN AUSPICIOUS HOUR FOR THE MEETING.

ANY MOMENT IS AUSPICIOUS IF IT LEADS TO HARMONY AND PEACE, MOTHER. WHERE IS HE?



AS AKBAR STRODE INTO THE CHAMBER —





REMOVING HIS TURBAN, AKBAR PLACED IT ON SALIM'S HEAD.



YOU SHALL BE PROCLAIMED THE HEIR APPARENT!

THE FESTIVITIES THAT FOLLOWED THE RECONCILIATION FILLED THE CITY OF AGRA WITH JOY AND MERRIMENT.

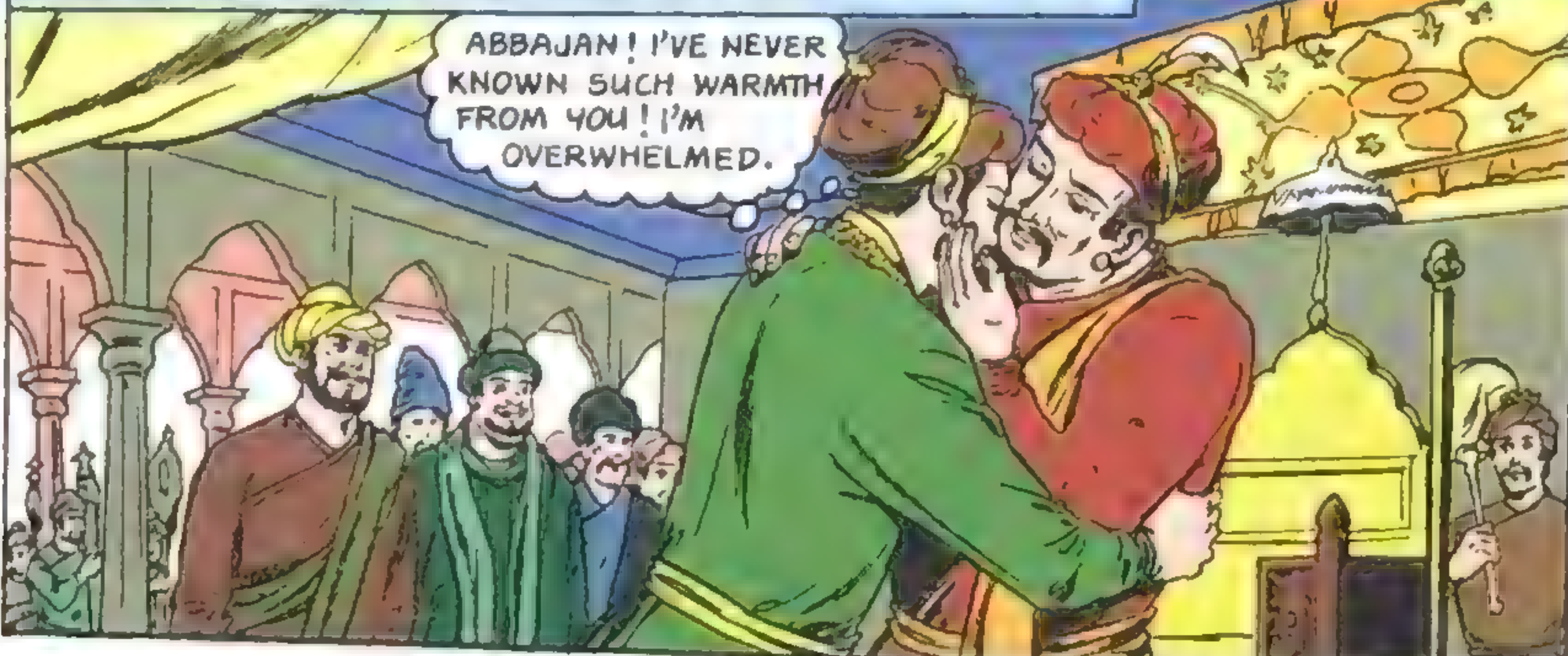
PERMITTING SALIM TO RETURN TO ALLAHABAD, AKBAR KEPT HIMSELF INFORMED OF SALIM'S MOVES.



JAHANPANAH, HE'S UNPREDICTABLE: GENEROUS ONE MOMENT, CRUEL THE NEXT!

EXCESSIVE DRINKING HAS DEPRIVED HIM OF A SENSE OF BALANCE.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR WHEN, AT THE DEATH OF HIS BELOVED GRANDMOTHER, SALIM CAME TO COURT, AKBAR WELCOMED HIM WARMLY IN PUBLIC.



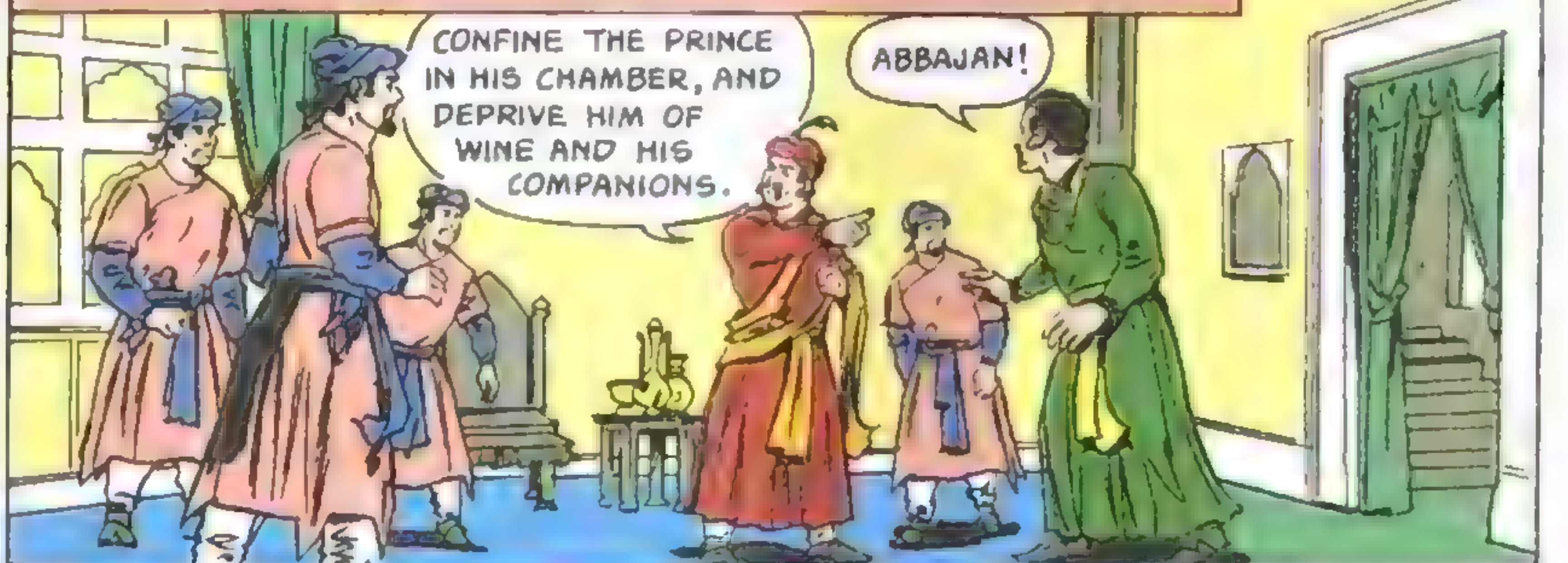
ABBAJAN! I'VE NEVER KNOWN SUCH WARMTH FROM YOU! I'M OVERWHELMED.

BUT LATER, WHEN AKBAR MET SALIM PRIVATELY —



SHAIKHU BABA, YOU'VE TRANSGRESSED MANY TIMES AND ON EACH OCCASION, I'VE FORGIVEN YOU. AS THE HEIR APPARENT YOU CANNOT BE SO WAYWARD.

THEN TO SALIM'S SURPRISE, AKBAR TURNED TO HIS ATTENDANTS.



CONFINE THE PRINCE IN HIS CHAMBER, AND DEPRIVE HIM OF WINE AND HIS COMPANIONS.

ABBAJAN!

AS SOON AS THE ATTENDANTS HAD LEFT SALIM IN A PRIVATE ROOM, HIS SISTERS CAME TO VISIT HIM.



SALIM, DON'T BE UPSET. ABBAJAN IS UNDER SEVERE STRAIN AND HE'S GROWING OLD.

HE CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU SLANDERED BY THE PUBLIC.



THEN THEY WENT TO AKBAR —

ABBAJAN, SALIM IS FULL OF REPENTANCE.

PARDON HIM, ABBAJAN. WE HAVE ONLY ONE BROTHER WITH US. WE'D LIKE TO SEE HIM HAPPY!



IT TOOK AKBAR TEN DAYS TO RELENT. FINALLY HE SET HIS ERRING SON FREE.

BUT SALIM'S DETRACTORS AT COURT WERE EVER ACTIVE. ONE DAY TWO OF THEM CAME TO SEE AKBAR.

WE'VE COME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR SUCCESSOR, JAHANPANA.

IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE EMPIRE TO SET ASIDE SALIM'S CLAIMS AND NAME YOUR GRAND-SON, KHUSRAU, YOUR SUCCESSOR.



THIS SUGGESTION COMING FROM AZIZ KOKA AND MAN SINGH, TWO OF HIS LEADING COURTIERS, STUNNED AKBAR.

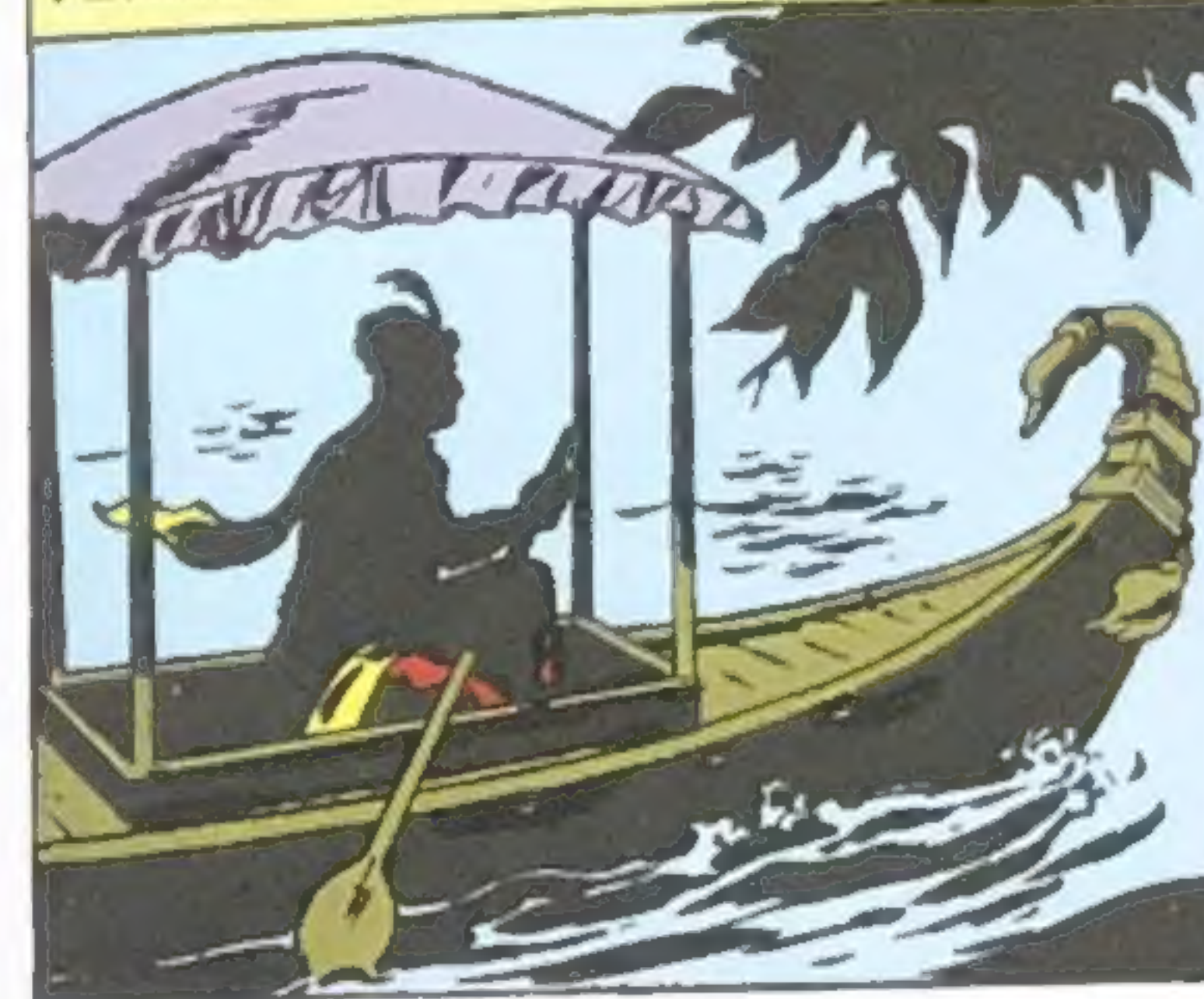
I'LL ANNOUNCE MY DECISION IN THE DURBAR TOMORROW.



O, SHAIKHU BABA, HOW HAVE MATTERS COME TO SUCH A PASS? WHAT HAS GONE WRONG AND WHERE?



THAT NIGHT THE EMPEROR SECRETLY FERRIED HIMSELF TO SALIM'S PALACE.



ABBAJAN! IT'S YOU!

SHAIKHU BABA, I'VE COME TO TAKE YOU HOME.

FOR THREE HOURS, FATHER AND SON WERE CLOSETED TOGETHER. THEY OPENED THEIR HEARTS OUT TO EACH OTHER AS THEY HAD NOT DONE FOR MANY YEARS.



THE NEXT DAY, AT THE DURBAR —

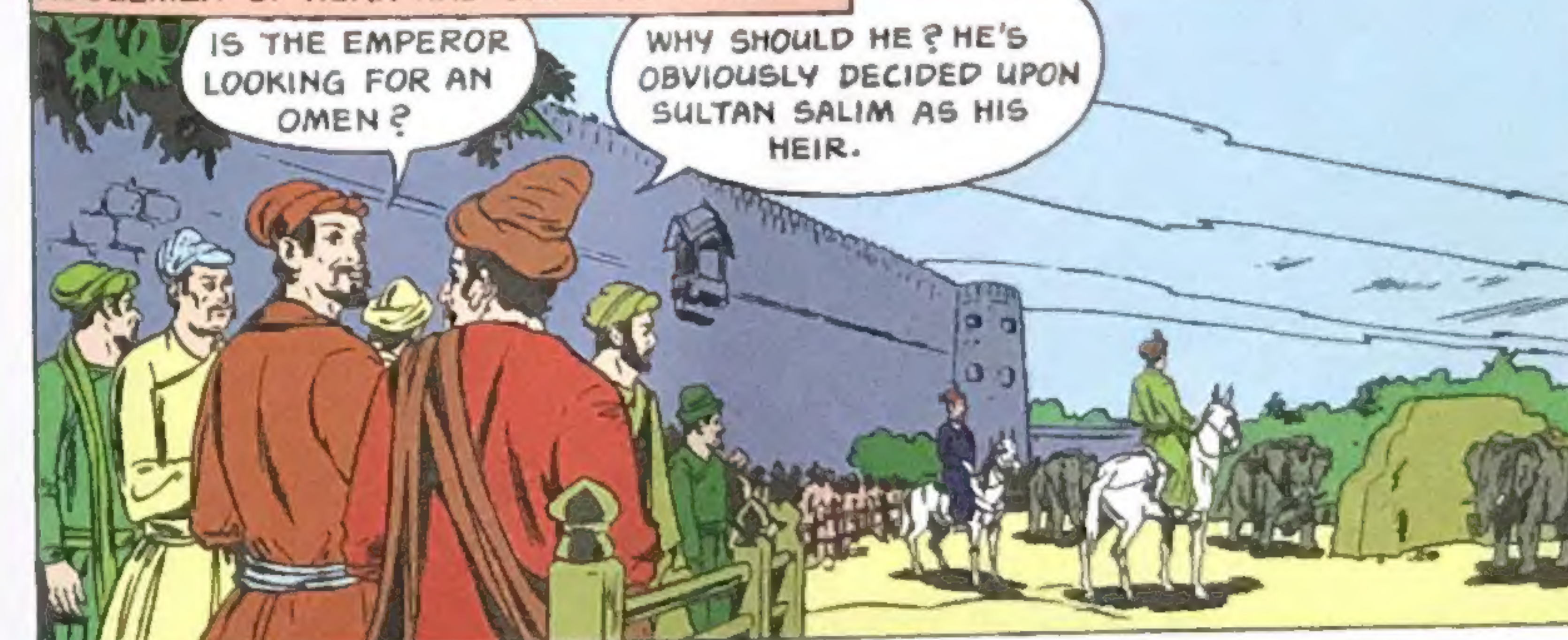


THE MINISTERS SHALL HENCEFORTH MANAGE THE AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADVICE OF SULTAN SALIM.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, A CONTEST WAS ARRANGED ON THE BANK OF THE YAMUNA, BETWEEN SALIM'S STRONGEST ELEPHANT AND KHUSRAU'S. ALL THE NOBLEMEN OF AGRA HAD COME TO WATCH.

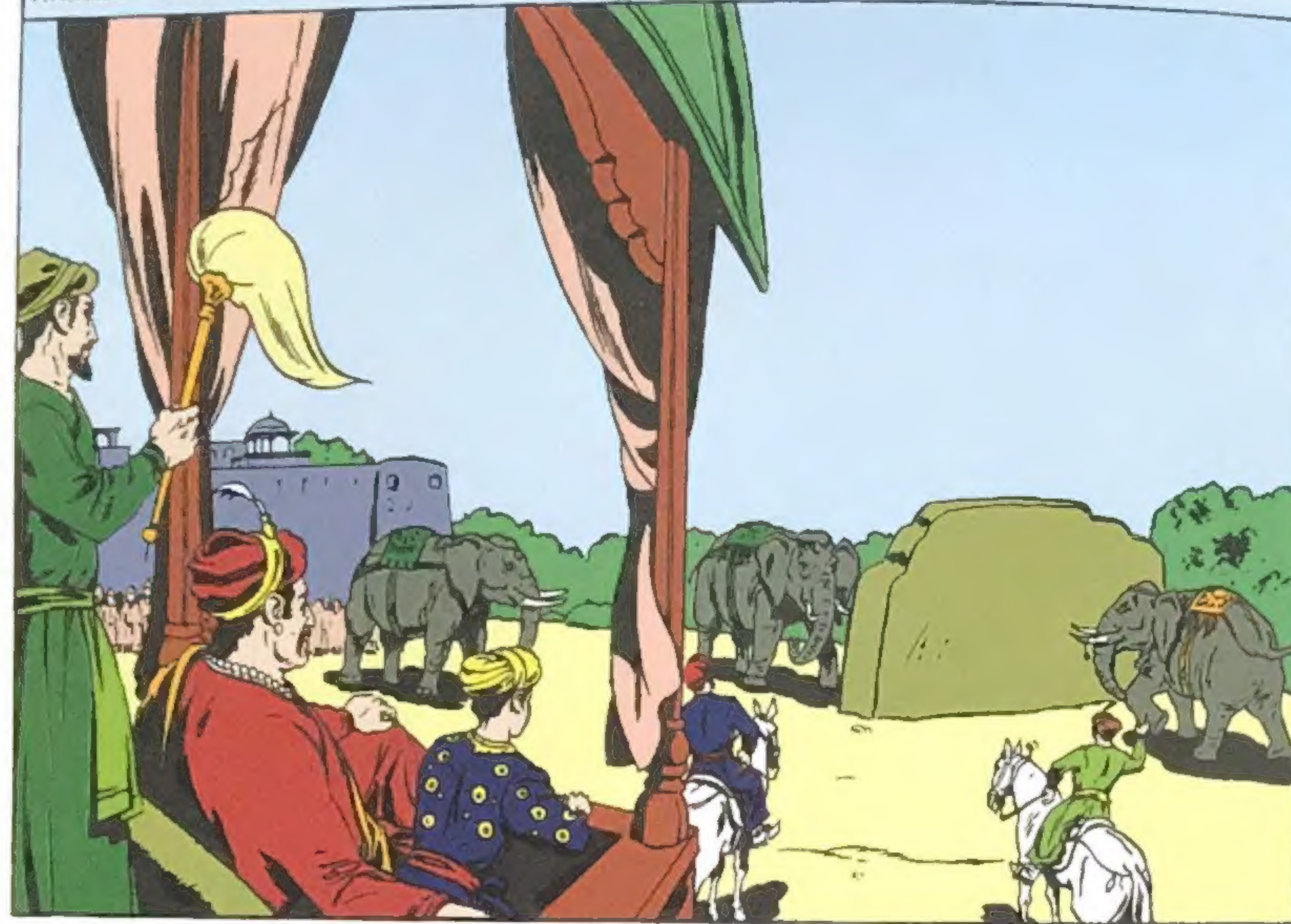
IS THE EMPEROR LOOKING FOR AN OMEN?

WHY SHOULD HE? HE'S OBVIOUSLY DECIDED UPON SULTAN SALIM AS HIS HEIR.





AKBAR HAD HIS FAVOURITE GRANDSON, KHURRAM, SEATED NEXT TO HIM.



CRASHING THROUGH THE MUD WALL BETWEEN THEM ...

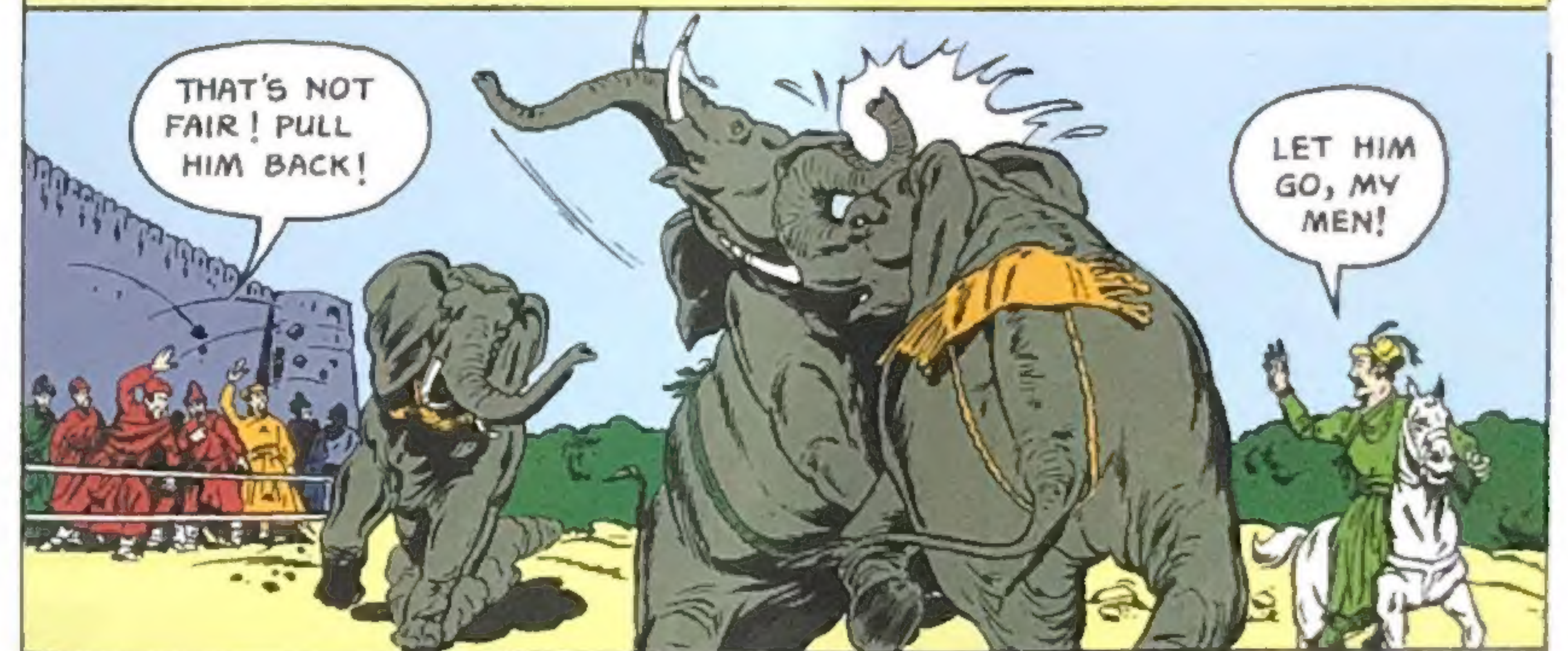


... THE ANIMALS CHARGED.

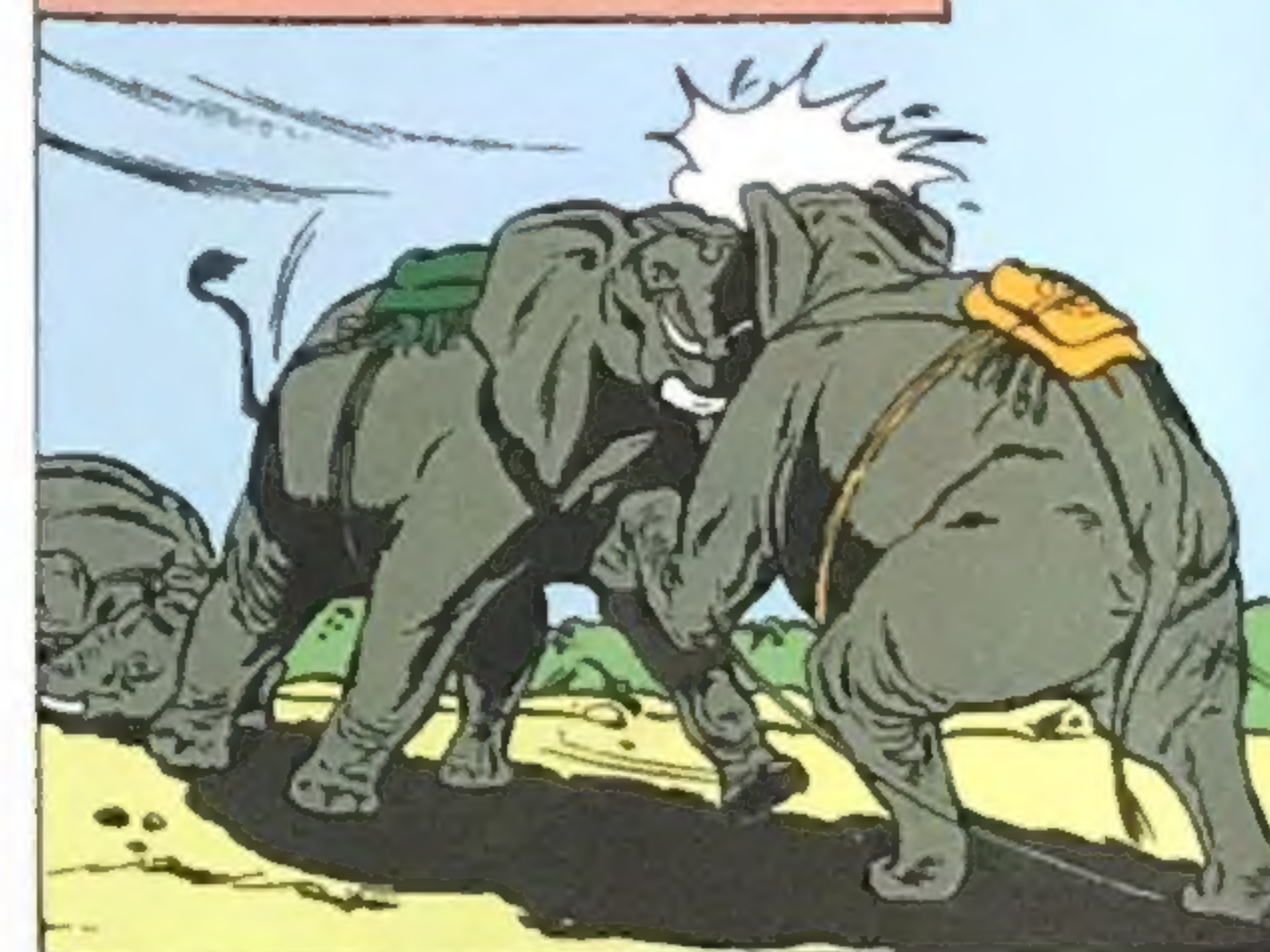


SALIM'S ELEPHANT, GIRANBAR, WAS CLEARLY GETTING THE BETTER OF KHUSRAU'S ELEPHANT, APURVA.

BUT, IN THE NICK OF TIME, THE EMPEROR'S ELEPHANT RUSHED TO APURVA'S RESCUE. SALIM'S SUPPORTERS RAISED A HUE AND CRY, BUT HE TRIED TO CALM THEM DOWN.



ENRAGED, SALIM'S ELEPHANT MADE A DASH AT THE INTRUDER ...

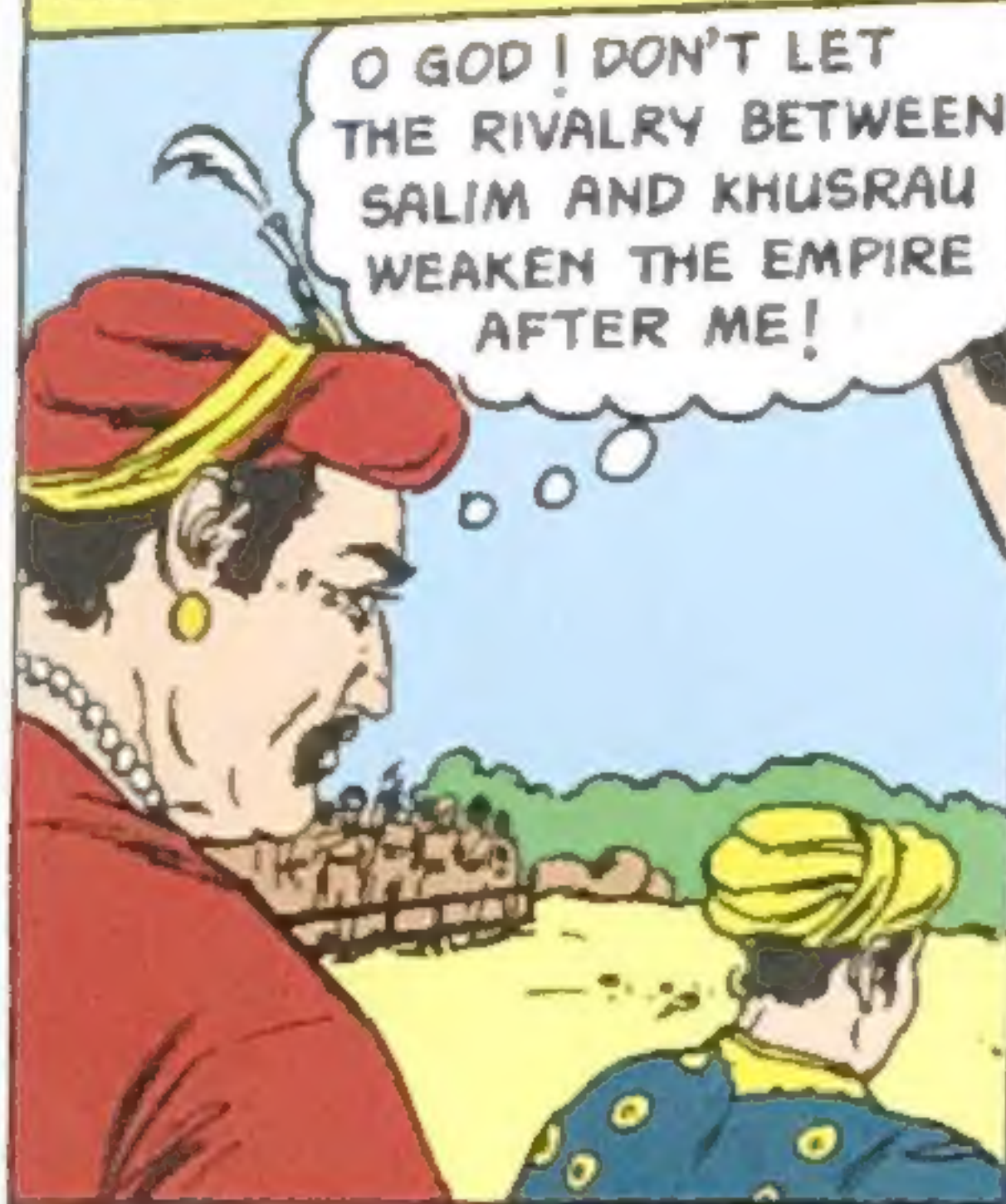


... AND SENT HIM REELING.

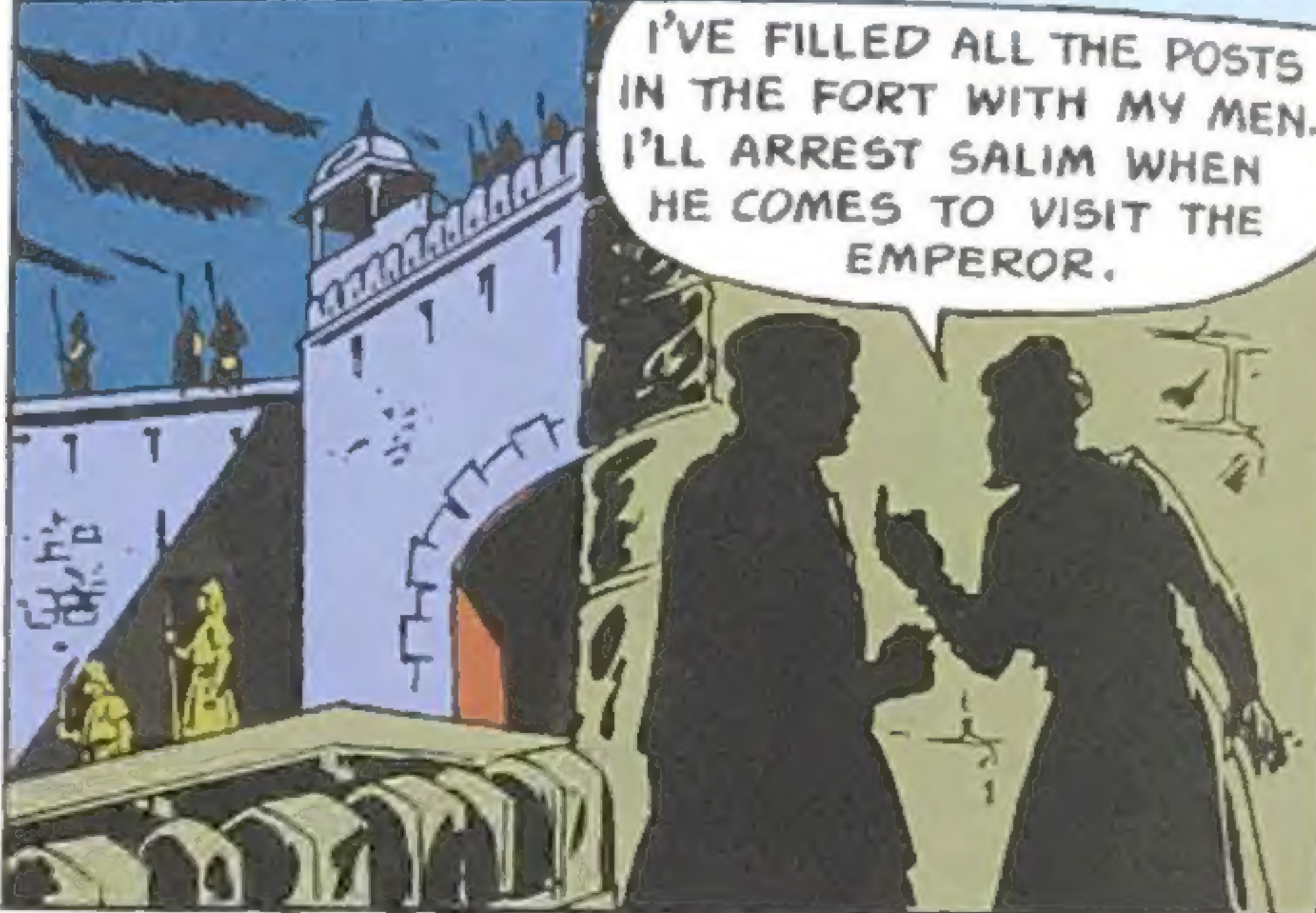




AKBAR WAS PERTURBED BY THE TURN THE EVENTS WERE TAKING.



THAT NIGHT, HE HAD AN ATTACK OF FEVER AND DIARRHOEA. AS THE EMPEROR LAY FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE, THE COURTIER'S WERE BUSY PLOTTING.



UNAWARE OF THE PLOT, SALIM SET OUT FOR THE EMPEROR'S PALACE.



AT THE FOOT OF THE TOWER, AS HE WAS ABOUT TO DISEMBARK FROM THE BOAT—



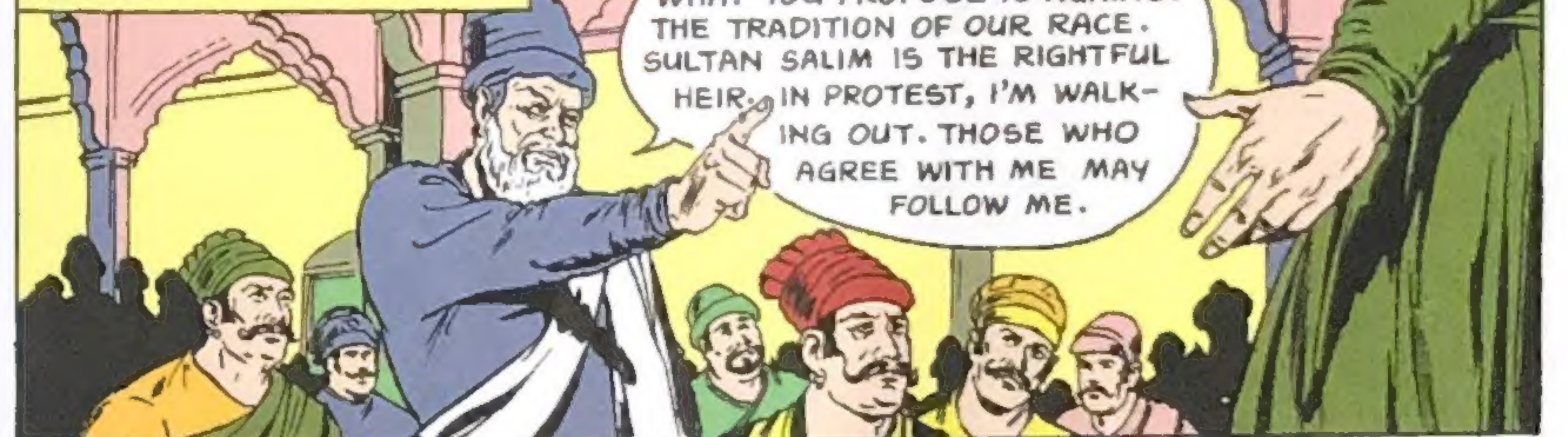
AZIZ KOKA AND MAN SINGH PLAN TO ARREST YOU THE MOMENT YOU ENTER THE EMPEROR'S PALACE!



WHEN THEY LEARNT THAT SALIM HAD BEEN WARNED, MAN SINGH AND AZIZ KOKA HAD TO COME OUT IN THE OPEN. THEY CALLED A MEETING OF THE NOBLES AND ARGUED FOR THE SUPERSESSION OF SALIM BY KHUSRAU.



BUT SAYYAD KHAN BARHA, AN ELDERLY AND RESPECTED COURTIER, VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED THE PROPOSAL.



MAN SINGH AND AZIZ COULD NOT BELIEVE THEIR EYES. ALMOST ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY FOLLOWED SAYYAD BARHA!



THE PLOT HAD BEEN NIPPED IN THE BUD!



BEFORE THE DAY WAS OUT, ALL SALIM'S ERSTWHILE OPPONENTS JOINED HIM. AZIZ KOKA WAS AMONG THEM.



THE MERCIFUL SULTAN SALIM WILL PARDON US. WE WERE MISLED.

YOU ARE FORGIVEN. YOU SHALL GO FREE AND UNHURT.



A REASSURED SALIM AT LAST WENT TO VISIT HIS BELOVED FATHER. HE WAS JUST IN TIME. THE EMPEROR WAS GASPING FOR BREATH.

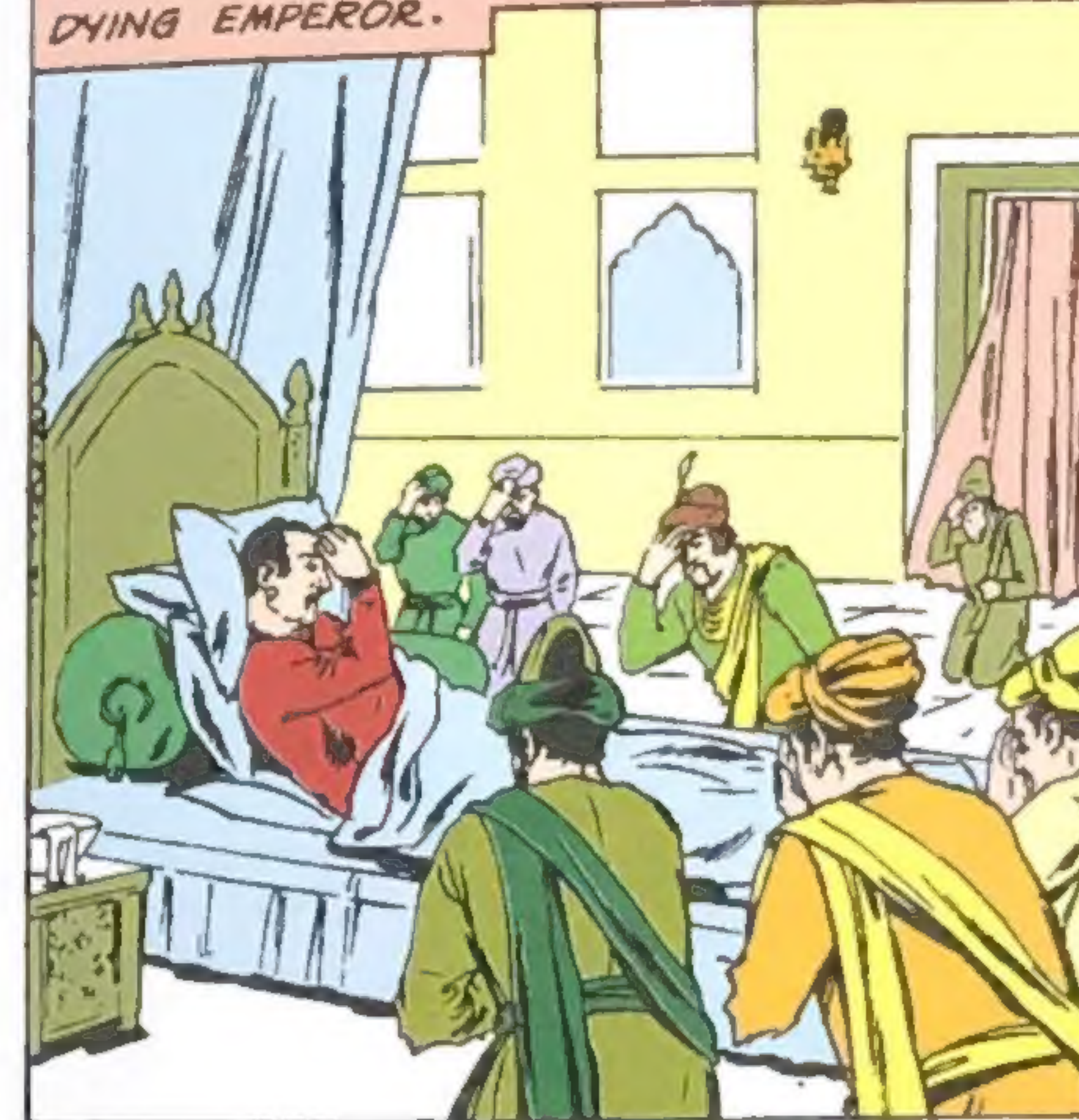
SHAIKHU BABA, YOU'VE COME AT LAST. HOW LONG I HAVE WAITED FOR YOU!



HE SIGNED TO THE ATTENDANT TO INVEST THE PRINCE WITH HIS OWN TURBAN AND ROBES AND TO GIRD HIM WITH HIS OWN DAGGER.

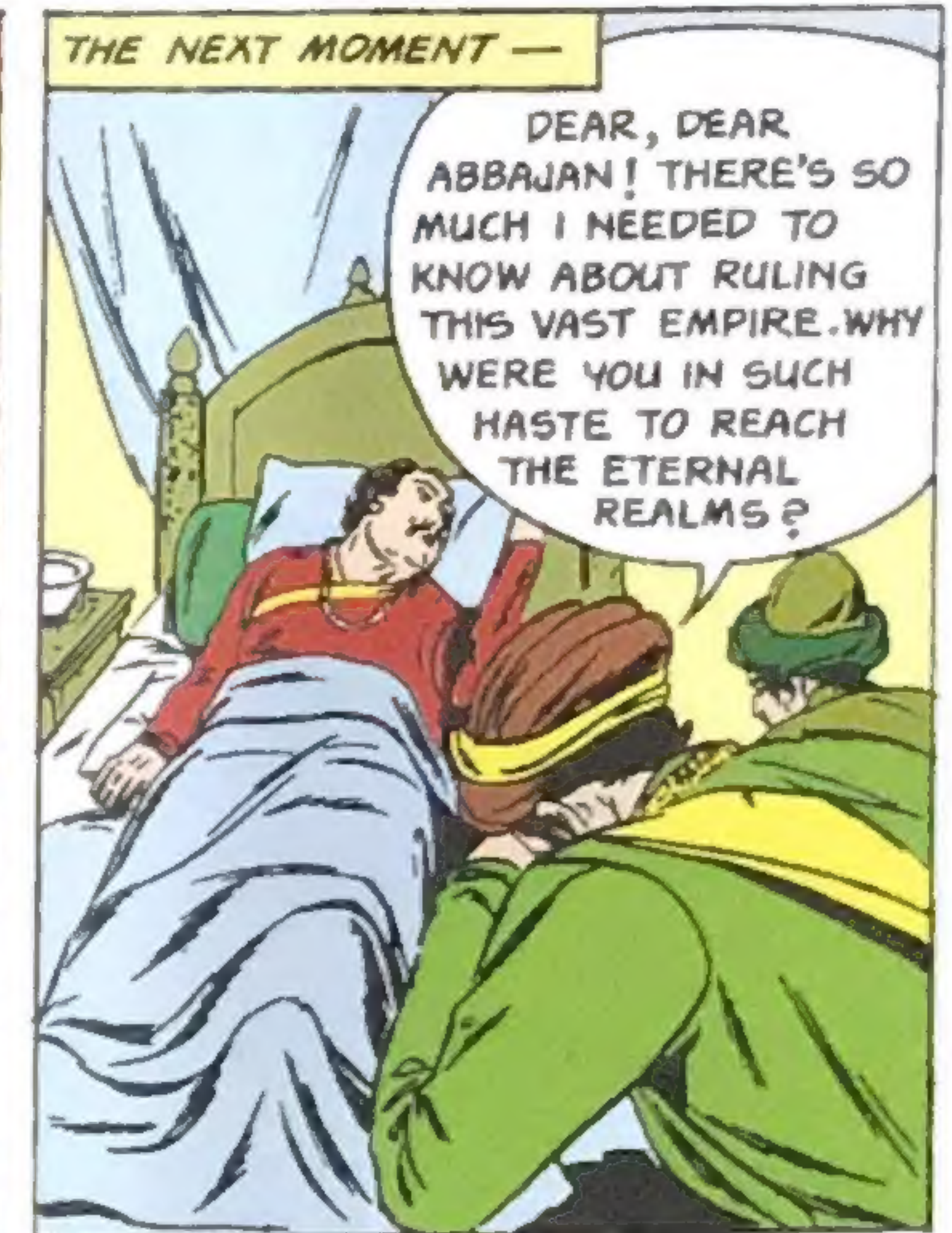


THEN THEY PAID THEIR LAST HOMAGE TO THE DYING EMPEROR.



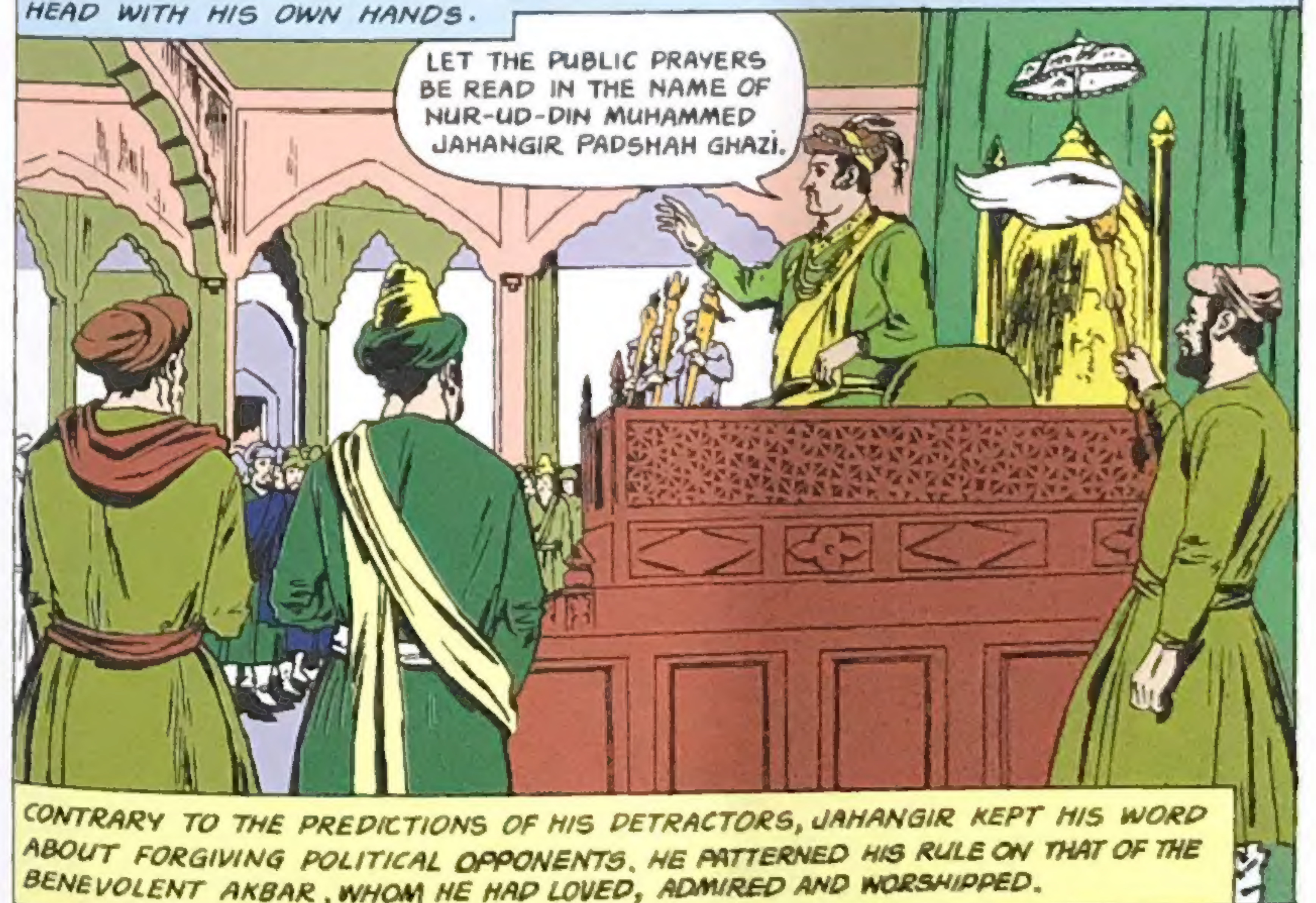
THE NEXT MOMENT —

DEAR, DEAR ABBAJAN! THERE'S SO MUCH I NEEDED TO KNOW ABOUT RULING THIS VAST EMPIRE. WHY WERE YOU IN SUCH HASTE TO REACH THE ETERNAL REALMS?



A WEEK LATER, SALIM ASCENDED THE THRONE IN THE FORT OF AGRA. THERE WAS NO ANOINTING, NO OATH AND NO SERMON. SALIM SIMPLY PLACED THE CROWN ON HIS HEAD WITH HIS OWN HANDS.

LET THE PUBLIC PRAYERS BE READ IN THE NAME OF NUR-UD-DIN MUHAMMED JAHANGIR PADSHAH GHAZI.



CONTRARY TO THE PREDICTIONS OF HIS DETRACTORS, JAHANGIR KEPT HIS WORD ABOUT FORGIVING POLITICAL OPPONENTS. HE PATTERNED HIS RULE ON THAT OF THE BENEVOLENT AKBAR, WHOM HE HAD LOVED, ADMIRERD AND WORSHIPPED.